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A King's solemn duty: Charles stands by his mother's coffin alongside his siblings in the sombre silence of Westminster Hall last night

VIGIL FOR MAMA

TURN TO PAGES 2-5

Each one in uniform,



by REBECCA
ENGLISH

ROYAL EDITOR

HEADS bowed, King Charles and his siblings entered Westminster Hall last night to pay a moving tribute to their beloved mother.

As members of the public watched in complete silence, the four senior royals – all in dress uniform – approached the Queen's coffin.

At just after 7.45pm, the duty officer struck the floor three times with his staff to signal the arrival of the late monarch's four children.

They lined up, the King at the front, followed by Anne, Edward and then Andrew, as the staff was struck three times again. Solemnly, they approached the catafalque – the raised platform holding the coffin – to take their positions and approach their mother's coffin.

Another three strikes of the staff, echoing throughout the cavernous Norman hall, and they stepped up before facing outwards, and then three strikes again.

Four candles flickered as they stepped up, the King, 73, sporting his Royal Navy ceremonial dress; Princess Anne, 72, in the uniform of the Blues and Royals, and the Earl of Wessex, 58, the Blues uniform with the rank of Honorary Royal Colonel of the Royal Wessex Yeomanry.

Former Royal Navy helicopter pilot Andrew, 62, who is no longer a working royal and has been stripped of his honorary affiliations, was given

'The staff was struck three times as they arrived'

special permission by Charles to wear a uniform for the vigil as a mark of respect for Her Majesty. He chose his Vice-Admiral's uniform, an honour given to him by the Queen on his 55th birthday.

Members of the public, many of whom had been queuing all day, were allowed to keep filing into the 900-year-old hall.

Last night's vigil had been intended to involve only the Queen's four children, but in a remarkable show of family unity, 18 senior family members – as well as a host of other relatives – turned up to support them.

They included the Queen Consort, the Countess of Wessex, Princess Anne's husband Vice-Admiral Sir Tim Laurence, Princess Beatrice and her husband Edoardo Mapelli Mozzi, Princess Eugenie and her husband Jack Brooksbank, Edward and Sophie's children Lady Louise and James, Viscount Severn, Peter Phillips, Zara Tindall and her husband Mike, the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester, the Duke of Kent, Prince and Princess Michael of Kent and Princess Alexandra.

The touching vigil came as:
■ Charles and Camilla made their first visit to Wales as King and Queen Consort, where they received a rapturous welcome;
■ The King told Welsh First Minister Mark Drakeford he was 'concerned' about how people will make it through 'a difficult winter';
■ The new Prince and Princess of Wales met Commonwealth soldiers

who will take part in Monday's State Funeral, with William telling them the Queen would be 'looking down and hoping it all goes well';
■ Prince Edward paid a moving tribute to his 'beloved Mama', saying the family had been 'overwhelmed by the tide of emotion that has engulfed us';
■ He and his wife, Sophie – along with Prince Andrew and his ex-wife Sarah – spent around 30 minutes meeting people outside Windsor Castle, collecting floral tributes and accepting condolences from well-wishers;
■ Buckingham Palace confirmed a second vigil will take place tonight involving the Queen's eight grandchildren, including Prince Harry, who has been given permission to wear a military uniform despite

being a non-working royal;

■ Details were announced of the 25-mile route the Queen's coffin will take in the State Hearse from London's Wellington Arch to Windsor on Monday to allow more people to pay their respects;

■ The five-mile queue to see the Queen lying in state in Westminster Hall had to be closed for six hours because it was so long – with two further queues forming just to join the main one;

■ Former England footballer David Beckham shunned offers of special treatment and spent 13 hours queuing before paying his respects to the late Queen;

■ It was claimed that King Charles found out about his mother's deteriorating health only hours before the public last Thursday;

■ William told well-wishers they thought his grandmother 'might get a bit more' time, video footage shot in Norfolk on Thursday showed.

Last night's vigil lasted 15 minutes and was in addition to that being mounted by the Household Division and Body Guards from 5pm on Wednesday to 6.30am on Monday, when the Queen's official lying-in-state concludes. At that moment, the doors of Westminster Hall will close in preparation for the procession to Westminster Abbey, where the State Funeral service will take place at 11am.

Rehearsals are taking place across the weekend to make sure that everything is in place for Monday's State Funeral, which will be the biggest show of pomp, pageantry and majesty seen in the

modern age. World leaders and royalty from across the globe – ranging from US President Joe Biden to the Emperor of Japan – are flying in to pay their respects.

They will be joined by hundreds of charity representatives and members of the public honoured for their civic duty who have secured places in the 2,000-strong congregation at Westminster Abbey.

Yesterday it was announced that King Charles had given permission for the Queen's eight grandchildren to stand vigil beside her coffin in Westminster Hall tonight.

William will stand at the head, with his brother Harry at the foot.

A spokesman said: 'At the King's request, they will both be in uniform. The other grandchildren will be in morning coat and dark



The family remembers: Eighteen senior royals were there last night. From left, the Duchess of Gloucester (in beret), James, Zara Tindall (face largely obscured), Jack Brooksbank (in background with glasses), Princess Alexandra, Mia Tindall (in front),

her dutiful children

Tribute to their Queen and their mother: The King leads his sister and brothers into Westminster Hall last night



Viscount Severn, Lady Louise Mountbatten-Windsor, the Countess of Wessex, Edoardo Mapelli Mozzi, Vice Admiral Sir Tim Laurence, the Queen Consort, Mike Tindall, the Duke of Kent, Lena Tindall (in front), Earl of St Andrews (with glasses and white beard), Countess of St Andrews and Lord Nicholas Windsor (bald with glasses)

formal dress with decorations.' Earlier in the week officials has said only working members of the Royal Family would be permitted to wear military uniform – meaning Princes Andrew and Harry, ironically the only two who have seen active service, would be forced to wear mourning dress.

When it emerged that Andrew had been given special permission to wear his Vice-Admiral's uniform for last night's vigil, there was widespread condemnation that Harry appeared to be left out.

Sources said the U-turn was not as a result of any lobbying by Harry, whose representatives had already issued a statement saying his 'decade of military service is not determined by the uniform he wears and we respectfully ask that focus

remain on the life and legacy of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II'. It was, they added, a decision made solely by his father in a spirit of unity and honour to the Queen.

William will be flanked at the vigil by Zara Tindall and Peter Phillips, while Harry will have Princesses Beatrice and Eugenie at either side. In a rare public joint appearance, Edward and Sophie's children – Lady Louise, 18, and James, Viscount Severn, 14 – will be at the middle of the coffin.

A senior royal aide said: 'The grandchildren, at the King's invitation, are very keen to pay their respects – just as their parents are doing the evening before.'

Comment – Page 30
r.english@dailymail.co.uk

I want to protect all faiths, says King

THE King last night set out what kind of monarch he wants to be, telling faith leaders at Buckingham Palace he believes it is his 'duty' to protect the diversity of the country including 'religions, cultures, traditions and beliefs'.

He said his own Christian beliefs, which 'have love at their very heart', allowed him to accept, respect and protect the views of others.

The King, who has long made clear that despite being Supreme Governor of the Church of England he wants to be defender of 'faith' – as well as 'the faith' – told the religious leaders, which included the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Chief Rabbi, the British Board of Scholars and Imams

and the General Secretary of the Hindu Council, of an 'additional duty' he believes he has. 'It is the duty to protect the diversity of our country, including by protecting the space for faith itself and its practice through the religions, cultures, traditions and beliefs to which our hearts and minds direct us as individuals,' he said.

The King also spoke yesterday of his concern about the cost of living crisis.

Wales's First Minister Mark Drakeford, who met the King during the day, told TalkTV: 'He mentioned the impact of the cost of living crisis. He is concerned as to how people will manage through what is going to be a difficult winter.'

ELIZABETH R 1926-2022

The siblings stand in silent tribute



Vigil for a monarch and a mother: Heads bowed, the King, Prince Andrew (behind catafalque) Princess Anne (left, behind candle) and Prince



Edward (right) take up guard around the Queen's coffin watched by an awed public who were still filing through Westminster Hall last night

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Grateful: The King shakes hands with a young boy after the cathedral service



Welsh pride: Excited schoolchildren wait for the King to arrive at Cardiff Castle

HAVING held the title for longer than anyone in its 855-year history, the monarch formerly known as the Prince of Wales came to Cymru yesterday to hang up his feathers and his 'Ich Dien' motto.

And in doing so, he also assured his Welsh subjects that when it comes to his love of Wales, nothing is going to change.

'It was a privilege to be Prince of Wales for so long. Now my son William will bear the title. He has a deep love for Wales,' said the King, stressing that this ran in the family.

'Like my beloved mother before me, we all share a love for this special land.'

All of this was said in Welsh, by the way. Note, too, the use of the word 'land' instead of 'principality', a word which sticks in the craw of Welsh nationalists.

Yesterday marked the end of the King's fast-track tour of all the home nations. It had always been his plan, immediately upon his accession, to visit all the capitals of the kingdom to underline the monarchy's duty to promote the 'U' in UK. At the same time, however, it is also his duty to embrace and

'Like my mother, we all share a love for this special land'

celebrate separate national identities and aspirations. A handful of demonstrators turned up in Cardiff yesterday to make it clear that they do not want a monarchy of any sort.

One sign read: 'We want a democracy, a Welsh republic.' Other protesters, however, had banners honouring Welsh national hero Owain Glyndwr, who was no less posh or royal than the Windsors back in the day.

Nor was he known for his walkabouts, unlike the King whose schedule ran way over time yesterday as he repeatedly glad-handed his way down various crush barriers despite a lot of eye-rolling and watch-checking from his nervous aides.

The protests were tiny, largely well-behaved and, in the words of the Welsh First Minister Mark Drakeford, a 'footnote'.

The overwhelming majority of those who turned out across Cardiff were delighted to see the first visit of the man they had always called Prince of Wales return as King of Wales.

Even the royal pen worked properly – not least because the King had brought his own.

The day started with an appropriately sombre atmosphere: A service of prayer and reflection for the life of the late Queen at Llandaff Cathedral. Unsurprisingly, the music was of the highest order, with the finest rendition of

The warmest of welcomes in the hillsides as King gives half speech in Welsh



HOW I SEE IT

by ROBERT HARDMAN

God Save The King we have heard since last week's grim news, courtesy of the trumpeters of the Regimental Band of the Royal Welsh and full organ.

That followed on from the de facto Welsh anthem Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau or Land Of My Fathers.

In the King's case, it could equally be called Land Of My Mother's Dogs, so said the Llywydd or presiding officer of the Senedd,

Elin Jones. Recalling the special parliamentary session held to honour the late Queen, she said: 'As you may imagine, there were many mentions of corgis – her constant, lifelong Welsh companions.'

'And of course, the members here representing Pembrokeshire were particularly keen to champion her preference for the Pembrokeshire corgi.'

This, she added, had always been

a source of jealousy among fans of the Cardiganshire corgi, not least herself as the Senedd member for Cardiganshire.

The formal message of condolence was proposed by Mr Drakeford who spoke of the late Queen's reign, 'unrivalled in its length and its reach'.

He also observed that the Senedd had met on a Sunday for the first time in its history in order to pay tributes to the Queen.

The King replied that it had been a privilege to honour his Welsh motto, 'Ich Dien' – 'I serve' – and he would continue to abide by it.

His speech was delivered half in Welsh and half in English, something which impressed many of the Senedd members who had not been expecting a 50:50 mix.

Though he spent a term studying Welsh in Aberystwyth in his student days, that was more than half a century ago. I am told that the

King had been taking extra Welsh tuition in the run-up to today from his Welsh-speaking deputy private secretary Dr Grahame Davies.

It means that there is now a fluent Welsh-speaker at the highest echelons of Buckingham Palace.

The King was also reunited with some old faces from his days as Prince of Wales. Dr Manon Antoniazzi, who used to run the Welsh and cultural operations at Clarence House, is now chief executive of the Senedd.

And, for much of the visit, the King was serenaded by Claire Jones. Fifteen years ago, he had appointed her as official harpist to the Prince of Wales.

The King left via a walkabout through a large crowd of well-wishers. Ogwen Williams, 49, remembered being 'dragged through the rain to see Charles and Diana' shortly after the royal wedding in 1981. She still looks



For you: The Queen Consort receives a bouquet of flowers from five-year-old Keira Hillebert watched by her mother Krii outside Llandaff Cathedral yesterday. The youngster, inset, was rewarded with a handshake

back fondly on the day and had dragged her own children along to see the new monarch. 'He's going to be a great King,' she added.

Ex-soldier Hannah Jarvis, from Abergavenny, had brought her children, Harriet, eight, and Hugo, six, for similar reasons. Meeting the Queen during her days in uniform had been one of Hannah's 'proudest days of my life' and she had been 'terribly upset' by the news. Yesterday was definitely lifting her spirits.

The royal party moved on to Cardiff Castle where the King conducted audiences before a reception for Welsh charities and cultural organisations.

These included a group called the Wives of Aberfan, established in the mining village which suffered one of the worst peacetime disasters in British history. In 1966, 144 people, 116 of them children, perished when a mountain of colliery spoil collapsed on to the village school.

The Queen visited soon afterwards and was so shocked and moved that she would return several times in later life.

'I really do believe she came as a mother that day, to sympathise and empathise,' said Denise Morgan, 67, adding that the Queen had been dutiful to the very end.

'She made a pledge to be our Queen all those years ago and I really think she kept to that

'To work almost to the last, it's a fine testament'

commitment, even up until two days before she died.

'To actually meet the Prime Minister and work almost up until the last, it's a fine testament to her.'

Back at the Senedd, members held a reception to celebrate the visit. Many talked excitedly of meeting the new Prince and Princess of Wales in the near future, though any investiture is likely to be a subject of debate.

'I think he should come to the Senedd first to listen to what sort of event the people Wales might want,' said David Rees, deputy presiding officer and Labour MS for Aberavon. He fondly recalled the investiture of the last Prince of Wales because his family had bought a colour television on which to watch it in 1969.

'The TV signal bounced off the local steelworks and everything was in double vision,' he laughed.

As for the new Prince of Wales's grasp of Welsh, Mr Drakeford said that 'nobody will be expecting miracles' but that people would 'appreciate' it if Prince William took an interest in the language.

It was a particularly exciting day for Conservative MS Natasha Asghar. Her parents had met the King as Prince of Wales when her father was an MS and her grandparents had met him when her grandfather was Mayor of Brent. 'We have pictures of him all over the house,' she said. Now they have even more.

As the King returned to London for last night's Westminster vigil, he heard a sound not heard since he was a small boy, a chorus of extremely excited schoolchildren lining the streets of Cardiff singing: 'We want the King'.

The fabled 'welcome in the hill-sides' clearly still applies, Prince of Wales or not.

William: Queen will be looking down on us



Elegant: The Prince and Princess of Wales at Pirbright yesterday. Kate wore a black coat dress and, inset, a sophisticated chignon



Ceremonial greeting: Soldiers from New Zealand perform a haka for the royal couple

THE Queen will be looking down on her funeral and 'hoping it all goes well', the Prince of Wales said yesterday as he met Commonwealth troops taking part in the state service.

William and Kate told of how 'strange' it felt to be planning the Queen's funeral just three months after her Platinum Jubilee as they met soldiers from Australia, Canada and New Zealand.

More than 90 members of

By **Mark Nicol**

the Canadian Armed Forces and Australian Defence Force have been rehearsing for Monday's military procession at Pirbright in Surrey – one of the Army's largest training bases.

Another 25 troops from the New Zealand Defence Force – who greeted the couple with a ceremonial haka – will also take part.

The Princess of Wales told

troops it was 'very strange' to go from the Jubilee celebrations to the funeral 'within such a small space of time'.

And, in a candid moment, the prince said he thought his grandmother would be 'looking down on Monday and hoping it all goes well'.

Corporal Greg Gifford, of the Royal New Zealand Infantry, said: 'It is such an enormous honour to be here. My mother will be watching on TV and crying with pride.'

Your emotion's overwhelmed us, says Edward

By **Neil Sears**

THE Earl and Countess of Wessex yesterday joined mourners at Windsor after thanking the public for the 'tide of emotion that has engulfed us'.

Prince Edward, 58, and his wife Sophie – said to have become a 'second daughter' to the Queen – were greeted warmly by crowds as they viewed the sea of flowers left by Windsor Castle's Cambridge Gate.

Sophie, 57, promised one well-wisher presenting flowers: 'I will lay them for you.'

And mourners told how she expressed admiration for those enduring the hours-long queue to file past the Queen's coffin at Westminster Hall.

Whitney Bacon-Evans, 34, said: 'She said, "Have you braved the queue down in London? We said we hadn't, and she said, "You have to be rather stoic."'

The Queen's youngest son said 'Thank you very much indeed' to those he met. And in response to their words of condolence, he replied: 'I think we've all lost someone this week.'

Both the Earl and Countess were smiling and occasionally laughing after more than a week of intense emotion.

In a joint statement issued shortly before the walkabout, they said: 'As a family, we have grown up learning to share our parents, especially our



Touching: Sophie views tributes at Windsor Castle

beloved mama, with the Nation, her Realms and the Commonwealth.

'While it has been lovely to have spent time saying our own farewell privately at Balmoral, it is now time to allow others to be able to say their

'Unimaginable void in our lives'

farewell. We have been overwhelmed by the tide of emotion that has engulfed us and the sheer number of people who have gone out of their way to express their own love, admiration and respect to such a very special and unique person who was always there

for us. And now, we are there for her, united in grief. Thank you for your support, you have no idea how much it means.'

Mentioning their children, the couple continued: 'The Queen's passing has left an unimaginable void in all our lives.'

'Sophie and I have taken huge pleasure in seeing our James and Louise enjoying the places and activities that their grandparents loved so much. Given that my mama let us spend so much time with her, I think she also rather enjoyed watching those passions blossom.'

'Those times together, those happy memories, have now become massively precious to each and every one of us.'



by **SAM GREENHILL**
CHIEF REPORTER

BRITAIN and the Royal Family are gearing up for perhaps the most spellbinding spectacle in this island's history.

All eyes will be on London on Monday as the Queen's State Funeral unfolds in majestic style.

The elaborate ceremonies have been decades in the planning – and this weekend the final touches are being made to the momentous occasion.

Hundreds of soldiers, sailors and airmen are conducting last rehearsals for the magnificent procession that will sweep through the capital.

And the royals themselves are spending the weekend adding their own special touches to the lead-up to the funeral.

Today, The Queen's eight grandchildren will perform a unique vigil at her coffin lying in state. Prince William and Prince Harry will stand at the head and foot, with their cousins Zara Tindall, Peter Phillips, Princess Eugenie, Princess Beatrice, Lady Louise Windsor and James, Viscount Severn at the flanks. They will stand

'People will have never seen anything like it'

heads bowed for 15 minutes as a mark of respect to their grandmother, mimicking the vigil held by a grieving King Charles and his siblings last night.

Both William and Harry will be in military uniform, after the King gave permission for his youngest son – despite convention dictating he should wear civilian clothing because he is not a working royal. It is considered the latest move towards reconciliation between the King and Harry, whose relationship has become strained since he quit as a working royal.

Foreign dignitaries, the world's kings, queens, presidents, prime ministers and a host of VIPs, will begin to arrive in the UK from today ahead of the funeral.

And they will be welcomed to an extraordinary reception at Buck-

ingham Palace on Sunday night to be hosted by the King. Some, such as New Zealand premier Jacinda Ardern, will have travelled for more than 24 hours before what is set to be one of the largest official state receptions in history.

Then on Monday, London will host the first state funeral since Sir Winston Churchill's in 1965.

Most people will never have seen anything like it, and a formidable operation is under way to ensure as many as possible can get to events or watch them on screens. Four giant screens have been erected in Hyde Park, and dozens more are being set up in towns and cities across the UK.

Rail operators are adding serv-

ices to London, and transport chiefs are making plans to cater for possibly millions of extra people descending on the capital.

They are also organising for London buses to pull over at 11.55am – when the nation will come to a standstill for the two-minute silence to honour Her Majesty.

The late monarch's coffin will be

borne on a 123-year-old gun carriage for the ceremony at Westminster Abbey.

Later, she will make her final journey to Windsor Castle, where she will be buried alongside her husband Philip.

The momentous set of events will truly be fitting for a Queen who meant so much to so many.

Decades of plans ready to unfold in majestic style



Day of reverence and spectacle: Resplendent in red, soldiers rehearse in the Mall for the Queen's funeral on Monday

SAS on standby to defend the capital

By **George Odling** and **Rebecca Camber**

SAS units will support thousands of officers in Britain's biggest ever policing operation for the Queen's State Funeral on Monday.

Scotland Yard said yesterday there had already been 34 arrests as the force, swelled with reinforcements from around the country, braces for a security operation that will dwarf that of the 2012 Olympics.

At least 2,000 officers from neighbouring forces will be on duty beside their Met colleagues throughout the day to form a ring of steel around the capital. And specialist units from the SAS are expected to be on hand to assist in the event of an attack.

Former head of royalty protection Dai Davies said: 'The SAS and those trained in anti-terror quick reaction will also be involved.'

'They will be strategically placed in military barracks and around the capital and will be there as the ultimate line of defence should there be an attack.'

'The biggest risk will be the lone wolf or knife attacks from individuals, which are harder to predict. There is always the risk of a car attack too, though there will be barriers that make this more difficult.' Scotland

Britain to shut down for Queen

BRITAIN will shut down on Monday with high streets, supermarkets, businesses and factories closing as the nation pays its respects to the Queen.

Even the skies will fall quiet as Heathrow cancels around 100 flights to minimise noise over London.

Schools will shut, while some hospitals are cancelling appointments and operations. Many shops, museums and theme parks, which would normally open on a Bank Holiday, will also close.

Food chains, such as McDonald's, and many petrol stations will close until late in the day. But some pubs and cinemas will open to show the funeral, while

Yard would not confirm the number of officers who will be deployed across the capital but new commissioner Sir Mark Rowley said it 'will be well beyond the total size of a force like West Midlands or Greater Manchester'.

Scotland Yard is said to be concerned that

By **Sean Poulter**
Consumer Affairs Editor

screens in cathedrals, churches, parks, theatres and football clubs will also show the historic ceremony.

Meanwhile hospitals will mount thousands of television screens on wards and in waiting room. England's chief nurse, Dame Ruth May, said NHS staff were 'going the extra mile' to give patients the chance to pay their respects.

Remembrance services are being held at Guy's and St Thomas' chapel, which sits by Westminster Bridge, and at St George's Hospital in the capital.

the police shooting of Chris Kaba could lead to public disorder during the weekend. A demonstration organised by Mr Kaba's family is set to take place today in Parliament Square before moving to Scotland Yard.

With hundreds of thousands of people

descending on the capital – as well as foreign dignitaries, world leaders, VIPs and the Royal Family itself – the complexity of security arrangements will be beyond anything seen in Britain before, Met deputy assistant commissioner Stuart Cundy said.

Thousands of high-visibility officers will be lining the streets alongside plain-clothes colleagues who will mingle with crowds, as sniffer dogs are deployed at transport hubs.

Snipers will be deployed on rooftops and hundreds of London's 2,500 firearms officers will be equipped with Heckler & Koch MP5 submachine guns and Glock 17 pistols.

The force has used more than 22 miles of barriers in central London to control crowds and keep key areas secure.

Drones are banned in central London and police have already spoken with 11 people for flying the machines in the past week.

'This will be the largest single policing event that the Met Police has ever undertaken,' Mr Cundy said.

'As a single event, this is larger than the 2012 Olympics, it is larger than the Platinum Jubilee weekend. The range of officers, police staff and all those supporting the operation is truly immense.'

Mr Cundy urged members of the public to be the force's 'eyes and ears' and report anything suspicious immediately.

Be part of historic



by **SAM GREENHILL**

CHIEF REPORTER

PALACE officials yesterday extended the route of the Queen's final journey – to enable more people to bid her farewell.

Instead of taking the motorway to her resting place in Windsor Castle, she will follow A-roads.

Last night the exact course was revealed, allowing tens of thousands of well-wishers to choose a spot along the route.

They will be able to catch a last glimpse of Her Majesty between 1pm and 3pm, after the service at Westminster Abbey.

First the Queen's coffin will be borne by an extraordinary procession of the State Gun Carriage through London to Wellington Arch, where it will be transferred to the State Hearse at 1pm. Other members of the Royal Family will then travel along the M4 to Windsor, where a second ceremony will be held at St George's Chapel.

But if the former monarch had been driven via the motorway, mourners wanting to say their goodbyes would have been unable to line the route.

The Daily Mail's Robert Hardman was among those saying earlier this week that the post-funeral route should be extended so more Brit-

Don't miss a single moment on Monday with our live blog at mailplus.co.uk

ons could say farewell. Now the palace has disclosed the route. From Wellington Arch, it will go along the south side of Hyde Park via South Carriage Drive before turning down Queens Gate, and then along Cromwell Road.

The cortege will follow the A4 through west London, going along Talgarth Road via the Hammersmith Flyover, and along the Great West Road.

Just before Heathrow, the hearse will switch to the A30 Great South West Road, and travel around the south side of the airport.

It will process along London Road, still the A30, and Staines Road, before crossing the M25 to Windsor Road (the A308) for the final leg to Windsor along a countryside stretch of the River Thames.

The route will take the Queen's coffin through 25 miles of London streets and villages in Surrey and Berkshire. Last night a Buckingham Palace spokesman said: 'The route to Windsor is planned with the public in mind.'

The news confirms suggestions that the Queen's coffin would not travel on the M4, which would have been the quickest route, giving thousands more Britons the chance to pay their last respects as her coffin passes.

Travelling along A-roads west out of London to Berkshire means it will be easier for mourners to line up along the road.

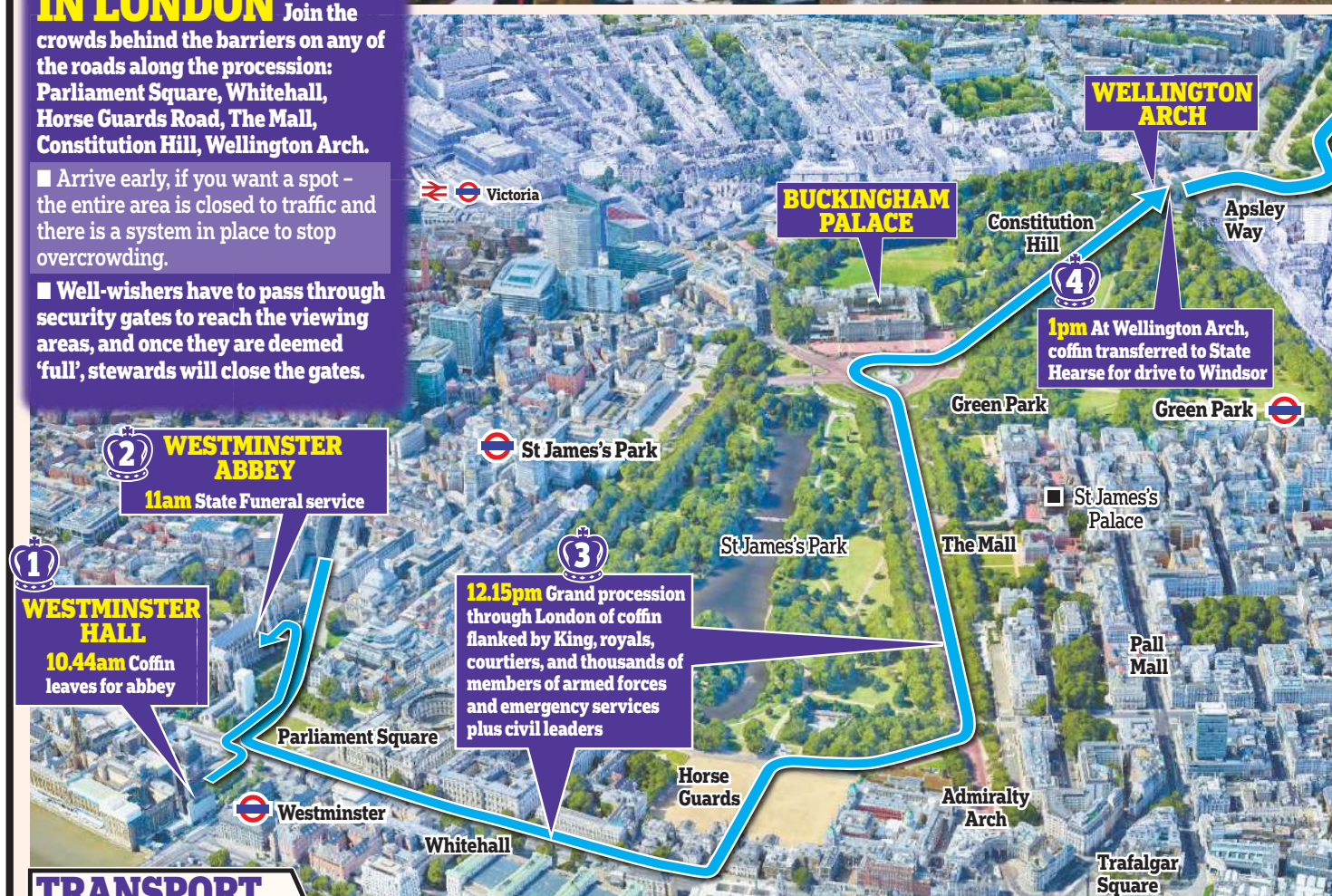
WHERE TO CATCH A GLIMPSE OF THE



IN LONDON Join the crowds behind the barriers on any of the roads along the procession: Parliament Square, Whitehall, Horse Guards Road, The Mall, Constitution Hill, Wellington Arch.

■ Arrive early, if you want a spot – the entire area is closed to traffic and there is a system in place to stop overcrowding.

■ Well-wishers have to pass through security gates to reach the viewing areas, and once they are deemed 'full', stewards will close the gates.



1 WESTMINSTER HALL
10.44am Coffin leaves for abbey

2 WESTMINSTER ABBEY
11am State Funeral service

3
12.15pm Grand procession through London of coffin flanked by King, royals, courtiers, and thousands of members of armed forces and emergency services plus civil leaders

WELLINGTON ARCH
1pm At Wellington Arch, coffin transferred to State Hearse for drive to Windsor

TRANSPORT

TRAINS Elizabeth Line will be running through night

■ Old-fashioned slam-door charter trains from West Coast Railways (WCR) to run from Lancaster and Preston to Euston to boost passenger numbers.

■ Avanti West Coast running extra services from Manchester to Euston. Southeastern, Chiltern Railways, Great Western

Railway running overnight services to and from London Victoria, Marylebone and Paddington stations.

■ London mainline stations open 24 hours a day to provide shelter for people overnight.

BUSES will pull over during two-minute silence at 11.55am. Road closures mean some buses

will stop short of their destination, or go on diversion.

UNDERGROUND Westminster, St James's Park and Hyde Park Corner stations closed in morning, but open again from noon. Green Park station exit-only. Charing Cross, Embankment, Victoria, Lancaster Gate, Waterloo and Marble Arch 'busier than usual'.

COACHES Victoria coach station closed.

TRAFFIC central area of London shut to traffic, along with Windsor. AA tip: switch off satnav devices and rely on AA diversion signs.

TAXIS Some ranks suspended.

RIVER TAXIS operating as normal

day Queen's final journey to Windsor extended so thousands more can see her pass by and say farewell

SPECTACLE - AND PAY YOUR LAST RESPECTS

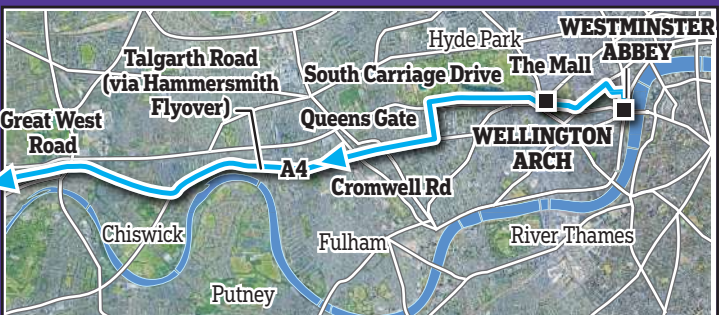


BIG SCREENS: For those who do not bag a place on the route, four giant screens are set up in Hyde Park. Access is via the north-eastern sides of the park between Marlborough Gate and Marble Arch.

3-DAY FORECAST

TODAY	
	North: Mostly dry, with good spells of sunshine High: 16C (61F) Low: 4C (39F)
	South: Mostly dry and sunny High: 18C (64F) Low: 6C (43F)
TOMORROW	
	North: Cloudy with some sunny spells in west High: 16C (61F) Low: 6C (43F)
	South: Mostly cloudy with sunny spells High: 18C (64F) Low: 6C (43F)
MONDAY	
	North: Dry with sunny intervals High: 16C (61F) Low: 9C (48)
	South: Sunny spells in morning, clouding over High: 17C (63F) Low: 10C (50F)

ROUTE TO WINDSOR



AROUND THE UK

Live coverage of the funeral is being shown on big screens in towns and cities including:

- Newcastle upon Tyne:** Old Eldon Square
- Leeds:** Millennium Square
- Scarborough:** Grand Hall of the Spa
- Hull:** City Hall
- Sheffield:** Sheffield Cathedral
- Bedford:** Corn Exchange. Advance booking
- Ipswich:** Cornhill
- Bracknell:** Bond Square
- Reading:** Forbury Gardens
- Other screenings:** Bournemouth, Christchurch, Poole, Winchester, Lincoln, Ripon and Truro
- Also shows in:** Vue cinemas
- Exeter:** Northernhay Gardens and Sandy Park at the Exeter City Football Club.
- Coventry:** University Square
- Birmingham:** Centenary Square
- Manchester:** Manchester Cathedral
- Bradford:** Bradford Cathedral

TELEVISION COVERAGE

one From 8am to 5pm Hosted by Huw Edwards, Fergal Keane, Kirsty Young and David Dimbleby among 29 presenters

itv From 6am to midnight Hosted by Tom Bradby, Julie Etchingham and Mary Nightingale among 7 presenters. ITV will not show ads

sky From 7am Hosted by Kay Burley, Anna Botting and Dermot Murnaghan





Sombre: He appears visibly upset after arriving at the front of the queue

Head bowed, Beckham pays his respects after 13 hours in the queue

HIDDEN among the throng, David Beckham waited for more than 13 hours to pay his respects to the Queen yesterday despite being offered the chance to jump the queue by an MP.

Dressed in a suit that hid his famous tattoos, a cap and a Covid mask, the former England captain, 47, joined mourners in the 'Elizabeth line' at 2am, going unnoticed by the masses for hours as he shuffled his way from Southwark Park to Westminster Hall.

Along with those around him, who helped keep his secret initially, Beckham said he survived on the very unfootballer-like diet of 'Pringles, sherbet lemons, sandwiches, coffee and doughnuts'.

'We all want to be here together. We all want to experience something where we celebrate the amazing life of our Queen and I think something like this today is meant to be shared together,' he told BBC News.

The former Manchester United and Real Madrid midfielder saw his cover finally blown shortly after midday, with members of the public taking to social media to share the news he was there.

The Daily Mail can reveal Beckham had been invited to view Her Majesty's coffin by an MP, who is allowed to take up to four guests, to jump the queue. But he declined

By **Katie Hind**
and **Imogen Horton**

the offer, saying that his grandfather Joseph West – a staunch royalist and the man the footballer has called his 'real-life hero' – would have been disappointed.

A source said: 'David could have avoided all of the queuing but he wanted to be like everyone else. He said his grandad wouldn't have [jumped the queue] so neither would he. He had been wondering all week when the best time was to go and finally he went for this morning.'

'David was brought up in an East End family who were real royalists – the kind who would stand to attention when the national anthem came on. He wanted to go to see the Queen like any other member of the public.'

Beckham also opted to dress in a suit because he said that's what his grandfather, who died in 2009 aged 83, would have done.

After queuing for 13 hours, Beckham looked emotional as he moved past the coffin to pay his respects appearing at one



A moment with Her Majesty: David Beckham stands respectfully by the Queen's coffin

point to wipe a tear from the corner of his eye. As England captain, he met the Queen several times and received his OBE from her in 2003.

'Every time we stood there when we wore those Three Lion shirts and I had my armband, and we sang 'God save our Queen', that was something that meant so much to us. Every time we did it, it was something special,' Beckham told reporters.

'So this day was always going to be difficult. It's difficult for the nation, it's difficult for everyone around the world, because I think everyone is feeling it, and our thoughts are with the family and obviously with everybody here today. Because it's special to be here, to celebrate and to hear the different stories that people have to say. I thought by coming at 2am, it was going to be a little bit quieter – I was wrong.'

'Probably the most special moment for me was when I received my OBE. I took my grandparents with me, who were the ones that really brought me up to be a huge royalist and a fan of the Royal Family, and obviously I had my wife there as well.'

'To step up, to get my honour but then also Her Majesty, to ask questions, to talk, I was so lucky that I was able to have a few moments like that in my life.'

'Because we can all see with the love that has been shown, how special she was and the legacy she leaves behind. It's a sad day, but it's a day for us to remember the incredible legacy that she's left.'

He has regularly told of his fondness for her on his Instagram and when she passed away last week he wrote: 'I'm truly saddened by the death of Her Majesty, the Queen. What an outpouring of love and respect we saw for the Platinum Jubilee for her life of service.'

'How devastated we all feel today shows what she has meant to people in this country and around the world. How much she inspired us with her leadership. How she comforted us when times were tough.'

When asked how the queuing had been on his knees, he replied: 'The knees are OK, it's the back and the feet.'

One woman who had queued next to Beckham told BBC News: 'Big respect to him. He's stood with us and he's paid his respects how he wants to and I think that's amazing.'

Other celebrities who queued included Good Morning Britain presenter Susanna Reid who waited for more than seven hours with her mother to see the Queen's coffin lying in state.

The 51-year-old broadcaster wrote on Twitter: 'I have just experienced a moment in history... at once majestic and peaceful.'

'It's a sad day but it's a day for us to remember her incredible legacy'



as he pays tribute to her years of service. He rejected an MP's offer to skip the line as he felt it was his duty to queue



Incognito: Beckham wears a cap and suit as he waits with other mourners, having joined the queue at 2am



An honour: Beckham with the Queen in 2015

ELIZABETH R 1926-2022



YOU CAN'T COME IN

Frustration is etched on faces as the gates at the entrance to Southwark Park are closed



THE PADLOCK GOES ON

Then tempers are tested further as the railings are chained shut

Now for the queue

By Izzy Lyons
and Isabelle Stanley

THE line to see the Queen lying in state descended into 'mayhem' yesterday as it was closed to new mourners – seeing a queue to join the queue spring up.

When wait times reached a colossal 14 hours yesterday morning, tailing back five miles to Southwark Park in south-east London, civil servants said the queue would be suspended for an initial six hours.

But determined members of the public still arrived in their droves as they refused to miss the chance of saying goodbye to Her Majesty – forcing organisers to do a U-turn and reopen the park.

The extra crowds were put in a 'holding pen' before the queue was eventually reopened just after 5pm – but with warnings of a wait time of more than 24 hours and cold temperatures overnight. 'It's may-

'Mayhem' as wait time hits 14 hours and line is closed to newcomers

William's grandmother, she's the image of stability.'

Terence Houlihan, 56, was also lucky enough to make the cut after cycling five hours from Bishop's Stortford in Hertfordshire on his Penny Farthing. He planned to cycle home again after seeing the Queen at, he estimated, around 2am this morning.

'I don't care how long it takes, I will see her,' he insisted.

The intense waiting hours led to hundreds of people fainting and collapsing in queues.

The NHS said it had cared for 435 patients who fell ill along the queuing route and surrounding areas by the end of Thursday.

The London Ambulance Service has drawn up plans to deploy an extra 300 staff on Monday, the day of the state funeral.

Yesterday's chaos started shortly before 10am when the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, which has been overseeing the Queen's lying in state, said: 'Southwark Park has reached capacity. Entry will be paused for at least six hours. We are sorry for any inconvenience. Please do not attempt to join the queue until it re-opens.' But the message had failed to reach the hi-vis security guards on the ground, who were



AND HERE'S WHAT THEY WAITED FOR!

But this was the daunting scene that greeted those who patiently bided their time to join the

gates up and said it's closed until midday tomorrow so we either had to queue until then or come back and get a timed ticket for another day,' he said late yesterday afternoon, adding: 'It's been really poorly managed.' Mr and Mrs Forkgen were among 200 people eventually given a timed ticket for early on Saturday morning.

In the main 'Elizabeth Line', as it has been dubbed, angry mourners who had made lengthy journeys to take part in the historic occasion said they were 'gutted' to arrive at a closed queue. The first people stuck outside were Eileen and David Smith from Birmingham.

Mr Smith said: 'We were up at four to be here and now they're

telling us we have to leave again. It's just not nice.'

Just behind them were Paul Barnes, 66, and his wife Sukanya Titran, 47, who had travelled from Lincolnshire. Peering through the gates, Mr Barnes said: 'I feel disappointed, I've taken a day off to do this like so many others here.'

Angus Hamilton, 68, and his wife Marian were also trapped on the wrong side of the gates. Mr Hamilton said: 'It's all pointless, they're saying go away but we're not going to, it's human nature, if we leave more people will join in front of us.'

Maxine Plant, 35, made the five-hour journey with her family from Bolton. 'We were gutted to see the

hem, no one's told us what's happening,' a security guard said.

Two sisters fresh off their flight from New York were among the final group able to join the queue before it was initially closed.

Kelly, 64, and Barbara Lamb, 71, made a last-minute dash across the pond on Friday to pay their respects. After landing in London at 6am, they saw the announcement that the queue was closed just before they arrived.

'We came straight here anyway, we were already on our way so we just hoped we'd make it,' Kelly said. Wiping away a tear, she added: 'It's the end of the era, it's

'No one has told us what's happening'



YOU'LL HAVE TO WAIT

Security staff are forced to break the bad news that visitors won't be able to join the queue



THE GATES OPEN AGAIN

But it's smiles all round once more... as the gates are finally reopened

to join the queue



official queue – a snaking line stretching as far as the eye could see

message, having to wait six hours like they said would have meant we couldn't go in at all, we've got a train home booked for 9pm,' she said. But the committed British public took their love for queuing to the next level and started to form a separate line as they waited patiently to be allowed through. Confused organisers then reopened the official queue just 20 minutes later, allowing them to join the end of the mammoth 'Elizabeth Line'.

'The official line is the queue's closed, but it's clearly open. We just wanted to reduce the number of people that turned up,' one security guard said.

It was good news for the hundreds who formed a queue to join the

queue, including sisters Zaida Jadim, 58, and Annabella Gonzalez. Miss Jadim, a former British Airways hostess of 23 years, is a big fan of the royals after serving afternoon tea to the Prince and Princess of Wales just after their engagement.

'They were so lovely and polite,' she said. By 3pm, the queue was flowing normally again despite officially being closed. Tens of thousands have queued for days to see the monarch's coffin raised on a catafalque in Westminster Hall since it officially opened on Wednesday.

It will be open 24 hours a day until closing to crowds at 6.30am on Monday, ahead of the state funeral in Westminster Abbey.

Anger of MPs' staff denied a priority pass to see Queen

By **Harriet Line**
Chief Political Correspondent

MPs' staff have 'inundated' Commons authorities with complaints that they do not get priority access to see the Queen lying-in-state in the Palace of Westminster.

While many parliamentary workers – including peers, MPs themselves, cleaners and cooks – are able to skip the queue, those working for MPs are not.

Jacob Rees-Mogg was seen paying his respects yesterday alongside his wife Helena and three of their sons.

Typical complaints by MPs' staffers about the queue-jumping passes include: 'I've worked here for 30 years and this is an insult,' according to the Politico website. But another said the anger about cleaners and cooks 'oozes snobbery'.

Downing Street said that the queue system is going to plan, despite entries having to be paused for six hours after it reached maximum capacity.

House of Commons authorities told staff they understood the 'significant disappointment' felt by many members of staff, and have been 'inundated' with complaints. But in an update to



Bowed heads: Jacob Rees-Mogg and his family yesterday

staff, seen by The Spectator, they said: 'Unfortunately, based on the projected numbers we are expecting to join the queue over the coming days, it is not possible to open up access further without the risk of impacting access for queuing members of the public.'

'The absolute priority is to ensure as many members of the public as possible are able to pay their respects, many of whom have travelled from across the country and queued, often over nine or ten hours. We do

not in any way wish to jeopardise their ability to pass through Westminster Hall.'

The special access for MPs – who can also bring in up to four guests – has provoked criticism.

Members of the public waiting in line have branded it an 'abuse of privilege'. But the Commons said some MPs had used their guest passes to take their staff in, and said they would closely monitor the allocation of tickets.

Parliamentary authorities did not respond to a request for comment last night.



by **Richard Kay**

EDITOR AT LARGE

FOUR days before she died, the Queen had an important announcement for the shooting party she had invited to spend a few days at Balmoral Castle.

Dinner that Sunday night would be informal, she said. No black tie for the men nor long dresses for the ladies and, unusually, there would be no piper.

For decades the skirl of the bagpipes had been an indispensable soundtrack to every occasion at the Scottish castle so this was a real break in tradition.

Her guests were her Bowes-Lyons cousins, relatives through the Queen Mother's family to whom she had always been close. One thing that hadn't changed when they all sat down in the castle dining room that evening was the reassuring presence of the Queen.

She was on 'good form', they said, 'perky even'. It was clear she drew strength from having loved ones around her.

Her physical decline had not made her last weeks easy: standing and walking, especially up and down stairs, were difficult and she was eating sparingly. But the joy of being at her favourite home more than made up for it.

She asked that many of the traditions of a Balmoral summer should continue, even though she could not join in as she once did, particularly with the walks and the picnics, and she found it harder to do her regular newspaper crossword puzzle.

But there were other compensations and none more intriguing than the way she made a point of watching TV weather forecasts.

The reason? She had developed an unexpected affection for BBC weatherman Tomasz Schafernaker. 'It was like a bit of a crush; she always wanted to watch the forecasts when he was on,' says a

Sunbathing and riding were still on the agenda

close figure. 'She was amused hearing the cadences when his name was read out but she loved watching him, too.'

The Queen may not have known it but she was in good company: the 43-year-old Polish-British meteorologist has a huge following on social media. During lockdown he was voted Britain's favourite weatherman, in part because of his long hair that he neglected to cut.

That she found her final days in her beloved Highlands so consoling is all the more surprising after the sadness which settled on her soon after her arrival in Scotland this summer. This, I can reveal, was caused by the death of Candy, a dachshund-corgi cross breed known as a dorgi.

The loss was a huge blow to the Queen as Candy was her oldest and longest surviving dog. She had been at her side since 2004, making her more than 18 — a remarkable age for a dorgi.

Poignantly the dog had the same name as a much-loved yellow Labrador of Prince Philip. She was one of the Queen's four dorgis

(Cider, Berry and Vulcan being the others) but outlived them all.

Although in dog years Candy was in extreme old age, her death hit the Queen hard. In a highly unusual move she decided she did not want this most loyal of companions to be buried at Balmoral.

For most of her life there has been an unwritten rule that her

dogs are buried where they die, so the final resting places of her pets can be found at Windsor, Sandringham and Balmoral.

Normally the Queen herself oversees the burials, accompanied by her head gardener. Later, a headstone engraved with the dog's name, date of birth and death and a suitable epitaph is put up. But

on the death of Candy she arranged for the dog's remains to be flown to London and transferred to Windsor to be buried with another long-term companion, Vulcan, who passed away in 2020.

So unexpected was her decision that her close domestic staff saw it as a sign that the Queen had every intention of being back in Windsor

at the end of the holiday to supervise the placing of the headstone herself.

She still had the agreeable companionship of two other dogs, Sandy and Muick, gifts from Prince Andrew and his daughters a year ago.

There had been some other encouraging signs too. Shortly before arriving in Scotland she asked to be taken down to the mews at Windsor Castle where her stud groom Terry Pendry had continued to look after the horses, even though she was no longer riding them.

She just wanted to see them, although when she was invited to



She hosted a shooting party for her cousins. Enjoyed supper and lunch with a clergyman. And never missed an appearance by her favourite TV weatherman. RICHARD KAY reveals the heartening inside story of...

The Queen's rather perky last days AT Balmoral



A twinkle in her eye: The Queen just before meeting new Prime Minister Liz Truss, with one of her adored dogs — and BBC weatherman Tomasz Schafernaker, whom she had a soft spot for

to the window and she was 'looking over her gardens with great pride and affection'.

He added: 'Her health was frail, we knew that, but when I left her on Sunday she was very positive, and I'm just finding it very hard to believe that in those few days things had changed so much.'

Even two days before her death, that famous enthusiasm was undimmed. On Tuesday she spoke by telephone to her trainer Clive Cox about the prospects of her filly Love Affairs, which would go on to be her final winner in her career as a racehorse owner.

He said: 'We talked about the filly, how the race might pan out, how another horse of hers was doing in my stable and about a couple of other things. She was as sharp as a tack.'

No one witnessed this incredible resilience she possessed more than her closest aides. And it was her staff who were determined to make sure that if this was to be her final summer, it was comfortable.

Ever since the Covid pandemic when the Queen moved permanently to Windsor Castle, this small team of domestic servants have been rotating every two weeks.

It was changeover in the week the Queen died, which meant that a day after she had audiences with the outgoing Prime Minister Boris Johnson and incoming Liz Truss, her senior page Paul Whybrew and her footman Ian Robinson, whose

strongboxes that hold her diaries and other intimate secrets. In recent months he had overseen the removal of many of her private possessions from Buckingham Palace to Windsor. All these and the keys will now pass into the possession of King Charles.

Even though she spent much of her last weeks in her rooms at Balmoral, she was not alone. Throughout the summer, Royal Family members had dropped in, not to say goodbye but to share memories.

They included Prince Edward (who has taken over barbecue duties from his late father) and his

Frail, but also alert and chatty almost to the end

wife Sophie, Prince William, Kate and most recently Lady Sarah Chatto, the Queen's niece with whom she had a special bond.

Even on Tuesday there was no immediate alarm about the Queen's condition, although she was clearly tired after the exertions of receiving not one but two Prime Ministers. It is understood that a doctor and nursing staff were kept close by throughout her stay at Balmoral and she was receiving regular medical attention.

The sudden change in her condition on Wednesday, while not entirely unexpected, was still a surprise. As her health deteriorated and a sense of dread descended, the castle staff began alerting the Royal Family.

Only two were in Scotland, Princess Anne and Prince Charles, who was with Camilla hosting a dinner at Dumfries House, the Palladian mansion he saved for the nation. Both were able to be at their mother's side for her passing.

It is not known how those final hours unfolded and whether the Queen, like her mother, received the last rites.

Unable to make the journey to church for divine worship during the summer months, clergymen had, however, prayed with the Queen at the castle.

Sustained for so long by her Christian faith, it is certain that she would have wanted some spiritual guidance at the end.

In a life governed by meticulous protocol, her final weeks in her beloved Highlands could not have been better scripted.

She talked horses with her longtime trainer

responsibilities including walking the dogs, returned to her side.

There were other familiar faces, Angela Kelly, the Liverpool dock worker's daughter who had risen from dresser to personal assistant and curator, and her lady-in-waiting Susan Rhodes. Susan, who began working for the Queen in 2017, is married to Simon Rhodes whose mother Margaret was a childhood friend and first cousin of the Queen.

But when it came to her last wishes none was more important than Whybrew, her longest serving aide, who had been at her side for 44 of her 70 years on the throne. He will have known the whereabouts of the Queen's private keys that unlock the safes and

sit on a pony she agreed. She was helped up into the saddle and then a groom suggested walking the horse around the indoor riding school. The Queen did four laps and it must have been the first time she had been on a leading rein since she learned to ride as a child.

During July's heatwave she asked for a sun-lounger to be put out for her in the garden at Windsor. At

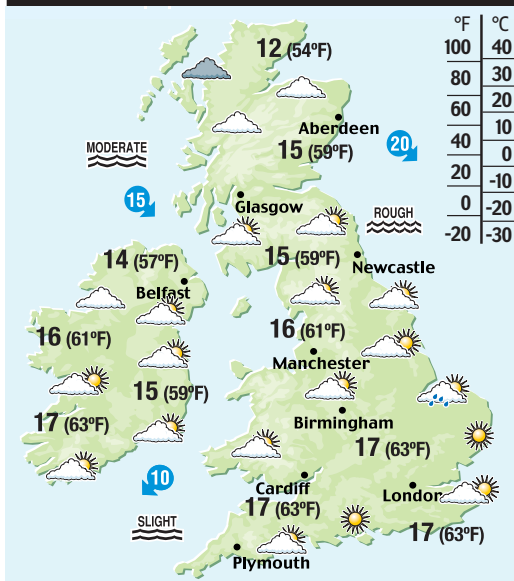
Balmoral, where the weather was less warm, she spent more time sleeping, often retiring for a nap after lunch.

Although frail, she remained alert and chatty almost until the end. The Moderator of the Church of Scotland, the Rt Rev Dr Iain Greenshields dined with her on Saturday and again on Sunday lunchtime. He spoke of her 'good spirits' and 'engaging' company.

Dr Greenshields, who preached at Braemar and Crathie parish church where the Queen used to worship, said she was 'absolutely on the ball'.

'She was talking about her past, her love for Balmoral, her father, her mother, Prince Philip, horses, very much engaged with what was happening in the church and what was happening in the nation, too.' He described how she took him

Weather

Go to: dailymail.co.uk/weather for UK and world 5 day forecast

Summary: Mainly dry

UK TODAY: Mainly dry with spells of sunshine and variable amounts of cloud. A chance of showers developing, mostly across northern Scotland. Gentle winds but breezy across North Sea coastal areas. Max 18c.

Today's weather

	9am	12noon	3pm	6pm	9pm
London	10c	15c	17c	16c	13c
Plymouth	12c	16c	17c	16c	13c
Cardiff	12c	15c	16c	14c	12c
B'ham	10c	14c	16c	14c	11c
M'chester	9c	13c	14c	14c	12c
Newcastle	8c	13c	14c	13c	11c
Glasgow	8c	12c	14c	13c	12c
Aberdeen	10c	12c	13c	12c	11c
Belfast	10c	13c	14c	13c	11c

5 day forecast

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu
London	18c	18c	19c	21c	21c
Plymouth	18c	19c	18c	18c	18c
Cardiff	19c	18c	19c	19c	19c
B'ham	16c	17c	18c	19c	18c
M'chester	15c	17c	18c	19c	17c
Newcastle	14c	14c	17c	18c	17c
Glasgow	16c	16c	17c	18c	16c
Aberdeen	13c	13c	16c	17c	16c
Belfast	16c	17c	17c	18c	16c

Yesterday

	24 hours to 2pm	Sun (hrs)	Rain (ins)	Temp (min)	Temp (max)
Edinburgh	6.3	0.01	6	14	14
Glasgow	11.2	0.00	4	16	16
Hull	6.5	0.00	9	14	14
Ipswich	8.2	0.06	8	15	15
Leeds	8.9	0.00	7	15	15
Lincoln	9.4	0.00	8	14	14
London	6.9	0.00	10	17	17
Manchester	9.8	0.01	7	15	15
Southampton	9.7	0.00	9	18	18
St Andrews	6.1	0.00	6	12	12
Stornoway	3.2	0.06	9	14	14

Information supplied by MeteoGroup

Moon and Sun

MOON rises: 10.14pm, sets: 3.07pm
 Sun rises London: 6.38am, sets: 7.10pm
 Manchester rises: 6.45am, sets: 7.20pm
 HIGH TIDE London Bridge: 7.08pm
 Liverpool: 4.19pm

Europe forecast

	today	c f	tomorrow	c f
Geneva	fair	15 59	sun	18 64
Lisbon	sun	29 84	sun	30 86
Madrid	sun	29 84	fair	27 81
Paris	sun	17 63	fair	19 66
Rome	sun	26 79	sun	25 77

Around the world yesterday

	weather	c	f	weather	c	f	weather	c	f		
Algiers	Fair	27	81	Florence	Fair	28	82	New Delhi	Showers	25	77
Amsterdam	Showers	12	54	Geneva	Fair	20	68	New York	Sunny	21	70
Athens	Sunny	31	88	Gibraltar	Sunny	26	79	Nice	Sunny	27	81
Auckland	Cloudy	15	59	Guernsey	Sunny	16	61	Oslo	Fair	16	61
Bahrain	Sunny	39	102	Helsinki	Showers	11	52	Palma	Fair	30	86
Barcelona	Fair	26	79	Hong Kong	Fair	33	91	Paris	Fair	17	63
Basra	Sunny	39	102	Innsbruck	Showers	18	64	Perth	Cloudy	18	64
Beijing	Fair	28	82	Istanbul	Sunny	27	81	Prague	Fair	14	57
Beirut	Sunny	29	84	Jersey	Fair	17	63	Rhodes	Sunny	28	82
Belfast	Sunny	15	59	Larnaca	Sunny	31	88	Riga	Showers	15	59
Belgrade	Fair	20	68	Las Palmas	Fair	28	82	Rome	Sunny	28	82
Berlin	Fair	15	59	Lisbon	Fair	23	73	Singapore	Fair	30	86
Biarritz	Cloudy	22	72	London	Fair	16	61	Stockholm	Cloudy	14	57
Brisbane	Cloudy	20	68	Los Angeles	Sunny	25	77	Strasbourg	Cloudy	16	61
Brussels	Showers	13	55	Luxor	Sunny	33	91	Sydney	Sunny	22	72
Bucharest	Fair	30	86	Madrid	Sunny	24	75	Tangier	Fair	24	75
Budapest	Fair	17	63	Malaga	Sunny	29	84	Tel Aviv	Sunny	31	88
Cairo	Fair	28	82	Malta	Sunny	30	86	Tenerife	Sunny	27	81
Cape Town	Sunny	18	64	Melbourne	Cloudy	17	63	Tokyo	Fair	29	84
Casablanca	Sunny	25	77	Mexico City	Fair	21	70	Toronto	Sunny	18	64
Copenhagen	Showers	12	54	Miami	Thunder	24	75	Tunis	Fair	33	91
Corfu	Sunny	28	82	Milan	Sunny	27	81	Vancouver	Cloudy	16	61
Dubai	Fair	37	99	Montreal	Fair	16	61	Venice	Sunny	25	77
Dublin	Fair	15	59	Moscow	Cloudy	14	57	Vienna	Sunny	19	66
Dubrovnik	Thunder	21	70	Mumbai	Rain	25	77	Warsaw	Fair	17	63
Faro	Sunny	24	75	Nairobi	Cloudy	22	72	Wellington	Cloudy	12	54

ELIZABETH R 1926-2022

China is banned to see the Queen

By **Kumail Jaffer**
Political Reporter

A CHINESE government delegation has been banned from the Queen's Lying in State in Parliament – but will be allowed to attend her funeral across the road in Westminster Abbey.

Commons Speaker Sir Lindsay Hoyle denied a request for Beijing officials to enter Westminster Hall in response to sanctions China imposed on a group of British parliamentarians.

Last year Chinese ambassador Zheng Zuguang was banned from entering the Palace of Westminster after seven British politicians critical of Beijing were singled out for punishment.

But it is understood that Chinese officials will still attend the Queen's funeral in Westminster Abbey on Monday.

The decision not to add China to the list of banned states – which includes Russia, its ally Belarus and Myanmar – has caused uproar among parliamentarians.

Last night senior figures praised the Commons authorities for sticking to their guns despite the possibility of a diplomatic rift. Former Tory leader Sir Iain Duncan Smith, one of the politicians

'At least Parliament is speaking out'

sanctioned by Beijing, said: 'At least Parliament is standing up and speaking out for free speech. If you ban Myanmar for human rights abuses, why not China?'

'They're guilty of genocide against the Uighurs, arresting innocent democracy campaigners – the list is astonishing.'

Chinese president Xi Jinping received an official invitation to the funeral but he is expected to send his representatives instead. He has only this week undertaken his first foreign trip since the start of the Covid pandemic, visiting Kazakhstan and then neighbouring Uzbekistan to meet with Russian president Vladimir Putin and other leaders.

It was reported this week that Mr Xi's vice-president Wang Qishan will arrive in London tomorrow, having visited the British embassy in Beijing to pay his respects.

Earlier this week the group of MPs and peers sanctioned by China – which also includes Tim Loughton, Lord Alton and Baroness Kennedy – wrote to the Commons and Lords Speakers saying they were 'greatly concerned' by

the funeral invitation extended to China.

'Given the United Kingdom Parliament has voted to recognise the genocide committed by the Chinese government against the Uighur people, it is extraordinary that the architects of that genocide should be treated in any more favourable way than those countries who have been barred,' they wrote.

The Prime Minister's deputy spokesman refused to comment on the matter, suggesting it was a decision for Parliament to make.

Liz Truss has pledged to be tougher on Beijing. One of her last acts as foreign secretary was summoning the



Funeral-bound: Vice-president Wang Qishan pays tribute at the British embassy in Beijing

Chinese ambassador over the country's aggression towards Taiwan.

No 10 has also detailed which world leaders visiting for the funeral are expected to meet the Prime Minister privately this weekend.

Today is the turn of the prime ministers of Australia and New Zealand, Anthony Albanese and Jacinda Ardern, at Chevening, the foreign secretary's country residence which Miss Truss is retaining temporarily.

Tomorrow US President Joe Biden, Irish taoiseach Micheal Martin, Canadian PM Justin Trudeau and Polish president Andrzej Duda will meet her.

Japan royalty

THE Emperor of Japan will be among visiting royals on a bus to Westminster Abbey on Monday rather than using their own private state transport.

The Foreign Office is refusing to back down over requests for visiting dignitaries to take their own cars to the venue.

Despite US President Joe Biden receiving special dispensation to arrive in his own armoured limousine, all monarchs attending will be boarding the escorted buses.

This includes Emperor Naruhito, who will be making his first foreign trip since taking the throne in 2019, and his wife Empress Masako. This visit

THE WORLD LEADERS COMING... AND THOSE WHO AREN'T WELCOME



■ **Joe Biden** (left) and **Jill Biden**, President and first lady of the United States

■ **Michael D Higgins**, president of Ireland

■ **Micheal Martin**, Taoiseach (prime minister) of Ireland

■ **Michelle O'Neill**, vice-president of Sinn Féin

■ **Emmanuel Macron**,

president of France

■ **Jacinda Ardern**, prime minister of New Zealand

■ **Anthony Albanese**, Australian prime minister

■ **Justin Trudeau**, Canadian prime minister

■ **Charles Michel**, president of the European Council

■ **Frank-Walter Steinmeier**, president of Germany

■ **Sergio Mattarella**, president of Italy

■ **Jair Bolsonaro**, president of Brazil

■ **Mohammad Shtayyeh**, Palestinian prime minister

■ **Sheikh Hasina**, prime minister of Bangladesh

■ **Recep Tayyip Erdogan**, president of Turkey

■ **Olena Zelenska**, wife of the president of Ukraine

■ **Ursula von**

der Leyen, EU Commission president

■ **Andrew Holness**, prime minister of Jamaica

■ **Paula-Mae Weekes**, president of Trinidad and Tobago

■ **Katalin Novak**, Hungarian president

■ **Egils Levits**, president of Latvia

■ **Yoon Suk-yeol**, South Korean president

from going lie in state



among those to get a bus to the funeral

By **Political Reporter**

is especially significant as, traditionally, Japanese emperors do not attend funerals due to a cultural belief that death is impure.

Joining them will be King Philippe and Queen Mathilde of Belgium, King Felipe and Queen Letizia of Spain and King Carl XVI Gustaf and Queen Silvia of Sweden.

French president Emmanuel Macron and his Israeli counterpart Isaac Herzog will reportedly use their own cars due to security concerns. A No 10 spokesman said: 'Some arrangements will differ depending on the needs of the different leaders, so I'm not going to speculate.'



Travel in style: Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako

■ **Sauli Niinistö**, president of Finland
■ **Andrzej Duda**, president of Poland
■ **Ranil Wickremesinghe**, Sri Lankan president
■ **Droupadi Murmu**, president of India
FOREIGN ROYALS
■ **King Philippe and Queen Mathilde** of Belgium
■ **Prince Albert II**

and **Princess Charlene** of Monaco
■ **King Felipe VI and Queen Letizia** of Spain
■ **Juan Carlos I**, former king of Spain, and his wife **Sofia**
■ **Queen Margrethe II** of Denmark, **Crown Prince Frederik** and **Crown Princess Mary**
■ **King Carl XVI Gustaf** and **Queen Silvia** of Sweden

■ **King Willem-Alexander and Queen Maxima** of the Netherlands
■ **Grand Duke Henri and Grand Duchess Maria Teresa** of Luxembourg
■ **Prince Alois and Hereditary Princess Sophie** of Liechtenstein
■ **Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako** of Japan
■ **King Harald V and Queen Sonja** of Norway

BANNED

■ **Vladimir Putin**, president of Russia
■ **Alexander Lukashenko**, president of Belarus
■ **Representatives from Myanmar**
■ **Ebrahim Raisi**, president of Iran (though Iran's ambassador will be present)

How could we even THINK of inviting this despot?



COMMENTARY
By **Sir Iain Duncan Smith**

FORMER LEADER OF THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY

WHAT a colossal mistake it was to invite China's Communist leaders to the Queen's State Funeral in Westminster Abbey on Monday.

Frankly, I am astonished that anyone could have countenanced offering a man such as Xi Jinping – a shameless despot, would-be president-for-life and the heir to Chairman Mao himself – a seat alongside other world leaders to witness the most sacred royal event in Britain in at least a century.

Mercifully, he's not coming: preferring to hobnob in Uzbekistan with that gangster warmonger Vladimir Putin.

However, China's vice-president, Wang Qishan, is said to be planning to attend.

He should now be told he's no longer welcome. Britain's relations with China are at a historic low. The situation has deteriorated to such an extent that a Chinese delegation was banned from attending the Queen's Lying in State in Westminster Hall in recent days.

THE Commons Speaker, Sir Lindsay Hoyle, refused access to this delegation amid a row over Chinese sanctions against two peers and five MPs – one of them being me.

I've frequently spoken out against China's genocidal treatment of its Muslim Uighur minority, more than a million of whom have been interred into forced labour and 're-education' camps in the north-west. The women have been forcibly sterilised in what a recent independent inquiry by Sir Geoffrey Nice KC called a crime against humanity.

For this, I and my fellow sanctioned Parliamentarians – as well as our families – cannot now risk travelling to any country that has an extradition treaty with China, for fear that we would be sucked into the Chinese penal system.

Parliament can make its own choices, of course – but Westminster Abbey is not part of the Parliamentary estate. As a result, on Wednesday we learnt that despite the entirely correct refusal of the Chinese delegation's admission to the Lying in State, some of the most senior ghouls of



Not attending: China's Xi Jinping

Beijing's Communist party had been offered the chance to take their seats at the funeral in the Abbey.

The case against allowing China a space at this historic event scarcely needs stating. Yet from the methodical dismantling of democracy in Hong Kong, the merciless assault on the human rights of Chinese citizens and the invasion threats against the free people of Taiwan, Beijing has forfeited any place at the table of civilised nations.

Making matters even worse, we can add the extraordinary irony that the regime has been persecuting Christians and destroying churches across China. Some of these buildings have been smashed, their interiors ransacked, while others have been closed down.

The increasingly dictatorial Xi reportedly prefers that paintings and icons of Jesus Christ be replaced with portraits of himself.

China's Christian communities have also been interrogated by the state and subject to intrusive surveillance.

How dare the representatives of this anti-Christian regime have the gall to sit in one of the Church of England's most sacred places – and pay lip service to the memory of our beloved late monarch?

Now, there are some who will insist that a funeral, however grand, is not the place for geopolitics – an event where the differences between countries can be set aside. I understand that view. But the truth is that Britain stands up against regimes whose values run utterly counter to our own.

We learned the hard way in the past that appeasement of dictatorial regimes doesn't work. We must make it clear that persecuting your citizens at home and threatening others abroad cannot be tolerated. With the eyes of the world on London next week, it is time for us to do what is right.

by Selina
Scott

RECENTLY, just before the Queen died, I made a nostalgic journey to the magical Outer Hebridean island of Berneray where just over 30 years ago I spent a week, almost alone apart from a small film crew, with King Charles.

Of course he was Prince Charles in those days and had invited me to Berneray to make a 60-minute documentary for ITV about his love for the Western Isles, Scotland and the Gaelic people.

There is nowhere in the world that means more to Charles than these windswept islands on the very edge of the United Kingdom.

There are no palaces on Berneray, which has a population of just 186, but Charles was more than happy to 'rough it' in a modest crofter's home, where his attic bedroom was no bigger than a Balmoral cupboard and the family's black cat had to be shooed off his single bed every night because, it is little known, our new King doesn't like cats.

Charles enjoyed hearty simple meals with his hosts Gloria and Donald 'Splash' McKillop.

We ate traditional Scottish fare, tatties and mince, at the kitchen table, which Charles wolfed down so fast he often mischievously took to spearing the potatoes from my plate.

Although Charles was, by now, in his fourth decade he mostly seemed as happy as a

*Our cameraman
said he had never
seen a man so sad*

schoolboy without a care in the world. But just as quickly as an Atlantic gale can hit Berneray's shores, turning sunshine to darkness, he could sink into introspection.

When the camera stopped turning we often took long walks on the three-mile deserted West beach, where the foaming ocean rollers made their first landing since America, and he would sometimes talk with what felt like dread at what destiny had determined his life would be.

'Selina you are very lucky. You don't have your life mapped out for you for every minute, for every hour, for every day,' he said.

These were the days when his marriage to Diana was breaking up and he often sought refuge from the pain and confusion he clearly felt by taking his paints and canvases to the rocks, seeking to capture the elusive beauty of Berneray and its sense of sadness, which seemed at the time to match his own turmoil.

I have never forgotten what our cameraman, Alistair Watt, told me one day as he observed Charles through the lens of his TV camera. That he 'had never seen a man so sad'.

Alistair's observation struck a deep chord with me. Earlier, Charles confided his innermost thoughts and fears in a way that he has never publicly expressed since, having learnt through much criticism and hurt to be more guarded.

'Let me tell you there are many times I feel totally trapped,' he told me. 'I lack a great deal of confidence, so it is quite a struggle. I could quite happily decide to lead a much quieter existence and make speeches which were purely replete with platitudes but I don't think that is going to get anybody anywhere.'

I asked him 'why do you feel trapped?'

He described the pressures of privilege and responsibility that came with his birth and added: 'I have a very well developed conscience, I suppose, which is

always needling me. I look around and see so many people in far less fortunate positions than I am in, and I feel: "Here I am in this position. What can I do to

the best of my ability to improve their lot?'

'Well, I must admit that Buckingham Palace and even my own advisers sometimes ask me to

tone down my views before airing them in public.

'There are certain things that might have been written at two o'clock in the morning, which, on closer inspection, I must admit might prove a little hazardous.

'However, I keep them in because I have always felt intuitively, perhaps with a sixth sense that, no, I will stick to that because I actually believe that it will strike a chord. And very often it has done.

'I actually feel — my trouble is that I feel very strongly about things. I can't help it. I don't know where it comes from. I just do. And I have — I find that — I must express it.'

Although these words were said long ago, in a place far from the protocol of monarchy, where he felt possibly more secure and less vulnerable than anywhere else on earth at that time, and although we are all entitled to change our

minds, I believe he still holds fast to much of what he said then.

And it is very instructive about the kind of King that Charles will become.

I suppose it was inevitable on my return to Berneray last month, and the beach where he talked so frankly, that I would be reminded of his words and our time on the island. I was there to film once again the lonely beauty of this remote island for ITN, to reconnect with the crofters and talk to Gloria McKillop, now 90 years old, about the time the Prince came to stay. (Donald McKillop died in 2009.)

We were due to travel to Dumfries House, the Ayrshire Georgian mansion with its priceless Chipendale furniture that Charles saved for the Scottish nation.

Charles wanted to show the islanders how the Dumfries Estate, now run on heritage-led principles and practice, was inspired by the



Charles told me he had imposter syndrome and felt trapped — but I still believe he'll be a great King



Documentary: Charles and Selina in 1992's *A Prince Among Islands*



Away from it all: The then Prince Charles and Selina Scott on Berneray, shown top

try to find a way of improving them if I possibly can.'

It was this sense of the intuitive, I think, that compelled him to make his warm inclusive reference to Harry and Meghan in his moving speech to the nation, when many people in Britain feel, with Harry's tell-all book imminent, the couple pose the biggest immediate threat to the stability of the Firm.

Few would deny Charles in what, at 73, is the autumn of his years, the chance for fulfilment and happiness. His life, at times, far from being strewn with rose petals, has been a roller coaster.

Despite what to outsiders will look like a gilded life of power, privilege and luxury, Charles as we all know has experienced much of the pain and unhappiness that at some time most of us go through.

He can however be irritable and stubborn. Especially when people don't 'get it' meaning they don't get him.

I have witnessed moments when he has been challenged. His initial response is not to immediately get into a heated argument but the signs of his displeasure are obvious. He grimaces, pushes his tongue into his cheek and those around him wait for the fall-out which, for the unfortunate, can mean the cessation of a relationship.

Though whatever his other failings his courtesy has never been in doubt. The first time I met Charles I was just 25, and the tourist officer for Rothesay and the island of

His endeavour is what the monarchy needs

Bute. He was not much older than me and the dashing captain of a naval frigate that had just docked at Rothesay. In a hurry to get back to his ship his driver almost ran me down on the pier. The next thing I heard was a screech of brakes when Charles ordered the driver to stop and apologise.

Today he feels vindicated by his prophetic campaigns, especially over climate change which has led, in turn, to a calmer and more confident Charles.

The day when Charles felt he was an imposter — 'like those people who think they are Napoleon I sometimes wonder if I am really the Prince of Wales' he once mused to me — are long gone.

What are the challenges ahead? With Scottish nationalism rampant, his job will be to help hold the Union and the Commonwealth together and keep laying the foundations for peace in Northern Ireland, as well as seeking greater harmony between the increasingly diffuse faiths in the country.

It seems likely, given his passion for protecting rural England, that he will take objection to the new Prime Minister's lifting of restrictions on fracking which he believes will scar the countryside and set communities against one another.

But, as I have already mentioned, how to express objections now he has promised not to? That will be the challenge for him.

I believe he will be a good King, though obviously time sadly will deny him the opportunity to establish the kind of greatness of his mother.

Charles has often infuriated people with his publicly expressed views but despite all of the criticism he has suffered, he has always stuck to his guns and continued to advocate what he believes in.

It is this sense of personal endurance and endeavour that is exactly what the monarchy needs to survive.

Berneray crofters, whose organic farming of the machair, a rare landscape of sand, shell and grass, had so impressed him.

Inevitably the Queen's death has delayed what will be a joyous reunion. Though the film of Berneray will go ahead. ITN is due to broadcast my return to the island early next week following the coverage of the Queen's funeral at Westminster Abbey, a ceremony which will inevitably be the most dramatic and emotionally charged in our collective lifetime.

Charles became heir to the throne aged three, seven decades ago. Now that his life-long apprenticeship is over, will he carve his name into the history books?

Although he has pledged, like the Queen, that there will be no more critical interventions in political affairs (he has let it be known, for example, he thinks the Government's decision to send illegal immigrants to Rwanda is an appalling mistake) he also declared in his diary of 1970 that 'to be just a presence would be fatal'.

I don't have a crystal ball but

having observed Charles at private gatherings in his homes, as a guest at his 50th birthday party at Highgrove, as well as in three 60-minute television interviews I have carried out one-to-one with him, two of them for American networks, I find it hard to believe he will be able to restrain himself, as he has promised, from letting his views and passion be known.

The dignity Charles has shown since the Queen's death, in the

'It's my duty to worry about the country,' he said

depth of his grief, has been deeply moving.

The graceful solemnity as he walked with his brothers and sister from Holyroodhouse up the Royal Mile in Edinburgh to St

Giles' Cathedral, following on foot behind his mother's flag-draped coffin, the silence only broken by the muffled drumbeat of marching boots, touched us all, as did the procession from Buckingham Palace to Westminster Hall.

His address to the nation was remarkable in its warmth and reassurance.

In a poll this week, 63 per cent of the country said he would be a good king, a significant jump from only 39 per cent in March who thought he would impress as a monarch.

And yet... and yet... despite the control he showed to the public I felt I could still sense beyond the mask the vulnerability I had seen at close quarters so long ago.

As I watched the lone piper and the honour guard of the Royal Company of Archers as the hearse left the Palace of Holyroodhouse, steeped as it is in so much turbulent Scottish history, I remembered again the sensitive young man whose destiny has finally arrived.

Charles first visited Berneray as a

small child when he sailed with his parents on their summer holiday cruise round the Western Isles, stopping for picnics on deserted beaches far away from the pressures of Court.

I think it was because he felt so secure on Berneray with his happy childhood memories and the kindness of the crofters, who treated him not exactly with a lack of deference but no undue ceremony, no forelock tugging and fawning, that he felt comfortable enough to disclose his innermost thoughts.

Our conversation ranged from the ribbing he took when he confessed that he talked to plants to help them grow to his views on architecture and his feelings about his place in the world.

What really struck a chord was when he said: 'I have had this extraordinary feeling for years and years, ever since I can remember really, of wanting to heal and make things better.'

I feel more than anything it is my duty to worry about everybody and their lives in this country... to

Pictures: LYNN HILTON/ANL/SHUTTERSTOCK/SELINA SCOTT

Wills, Kate and children 'to tour Oz next year'

By **Rebecca English**
Royal Editor

TALKS are under way to send the Prince and Princess of Wales – and their family – on an official tour Down Under next year, Australia's prime minister has confirmed.

Anthony Albanese said that a royal visit is on the cards for William and Kate – and it is hoped that they will bring their children George, Charlotte and Louis, probably during the school holidays.

Discussions on when the new King will make his first official visit to Australia as head of state have not begun. Mr Albanese told ITV: 'There have been some prelimi-



Trip hope: Princess Charlotte

nary discussions about the now Prince and Princess of Wales visiting Australia. And of course the Royal Family have always been welcome visitors here in Australia and they would be again.'

The last time William and Kate visited Australia was in 2014. They

took along nine-month-old Prince George, whose popularity was such that he was dubbed the 'republican slayer'.

Asked if that status made him 'nervous' to extend the invitation to the couple's children, Mr Albanese said the young royals

were more than welcome. 'I think I would hope that if they visit, they bring their children with them,' he added. Mr Albanese, who will meet the King this weekend ahead of Monday's funeral, has not ruled out holding a referendum on the republic if he is re-elected. But

he said it was 'inappropriate' to discuss it while commemorating the Queen.

The prince and princess had planned to visit Australia in the wake of the country's devastating January 2020 bushfires but had to cancel due to the pandemic.



Smitten: A young Princess Elizabeth hugs a corgi in July 1936

The Queen loved corgis ... now we all want one

By **Xantha Leatham**
Science Correspondent

THEY are the breed that became synonymous with the Queen and were by her side throughout her 70-year reign.

And now, it seems, everyone else wants a corgi too.

Searches for the dogs have increased tenfold in the last week, according to pet rehoming website Pets4Homes.

Buying a Pembroke Welsh corgi puppy will now set you back up to £2,500, with average prices reaching a record high after doubling in the last three days.

The Queen was given her first corgi, Susan, as a gift for her 18th birthday in 1944, and went on to have more than 30.

Her latest dogs Muick and Sandy will now live with her son, Prince Andrew, and his ex-wife the Duchess of York.

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JOHN LEWIS

Should Andrew still be a stand-in for King Charles?

By **Sam Greenhill**
Chief Reporter

EXPERTS have called for a 'rethink' over rules which mean Prince Harry, Prince Andrew and Princess Beatrice are now among the stand-ins for King Charles.

If the monarch is ill or abroad, they are among five 'Counsellors of State' who can act for him – despite none of the trio being working royals.

The Queen's loyal daughter Princess Anne and son Prince Edward are not on the list.

The counsellors are the sovereign's spouse, the Queen Consort, followed by the next four people over the age of 21 in the line of succession. These are Prince William, the Duke of Sussex, the Duke of York, and Beatrice, 34, who can take on the monarch's duties despite being ninth in line to the throne.

But none of the last three is a working royal, while the idea of disgraced Prince Andrew or

French airport renamed

A SEASIDE town in northern France that was once the playground of British royalty is to rename its airport, Le Touquet-Paris-Plage, after the Queen.

When she was a little girl in the early 1930s, the then-Princess Elizabeth visited the English Channel resort with her family, according to the local council.

It said: 'To pay tribute to Queen

Elizabeth II and in memory of her visit to Le Touquet with her uncle Edward VIII... the town of Le Touquet-Paris-Plage wishes to name its airport after her.'

The airport is hugely popular with private fliers from the UK – many of whom play golf or go for lunch at one of the upmarket restaurants. The new name of the airport is not yet known.

US-based Prince Harry stepping into King Charles's shoes has raised eyebrows.

Beatrice moved up the list to join the five counsellors of State upon the death of the Queen.

Princess Anne, who is one of the hardest working royals and was exceptionally close to her mother, is 16th in line to the throne, while Prince Edward is 13th.

It is rare for Counsellors of State to be needed. But in May, Charles and

William stood in for the Queen at the State Opening of Parliament.

Royal expert Richard Fitzwilliams said that even before the Queen died, the situation was 'extremely unsatisfactory', as Andrew and Harry were both unlikely to be called upon to act as a counsellor, which left just Charles and William to deputise.

He said: 'What it needs is a radical rethink. What you need is someone like the Princess Royal or the Earl



Controversy: Andrew with daughters Eugenie and Beatrice

and Countess of Wessex. I would have thought that was a more practical solution to this because they're all senior working royals and there is no controversy.'

Thomas Mace-Archer-Mills, founder and director of the British

Monarchists Society, said: 'Princess Anne is continuously one of, if not the hardest-working royal. She is proven reliable, trustworthy, and duty-bound. The rules as they apply now are fair going forward, but Anne deserves it.'



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JOHN LEWIS

LORD CARNARVON last saw his godmother the Queen at Chelsea Flower Show in May. By then experiencing mobility problems, she was chauffeured around the gardens in a Royal Household buggy.

'It was only very, very brief,' says George Herbert, the 8th Earl, humbly. 'We were there showing off the prototypes for the Highclere roses that are going to be available next year. She was being taken around in a little buggy and was amazed to see me.'

'She said, "Hello Georgie" [the Queen's fond name for her godson]. We talked for literally 20 seconds and that's the last time I was...' His voice trails off.

'I did feel she was becoming weaker [since Prince Philip's death].

'It's possible, when two people have had that much time together, if one goes, perhaps the other has to make so many mental changes it makes other things weaker in the body and they very sadly go as well.'

'Whether being heartbroken is really true — you can't prove it in medicine — but it does happen, doesn't it?'

On Monday, Lord and Lady Carnarvon will form part of the select group who personally knew the Queen at the intimate Committal Service in St George's Chapel, which will follow her state funeral at Westminster Abbey. It is here that Her Majesty will be laid to rest, with her parents and beloved husband.

Like so many of us, Lord Carnarvon keeps finding himself, in his words, 'flooded with emotion'. He and his wife, Fiona, 'heard on the grapevine' that his godmother the Queen had died 'at about 3pm' on Thursday. The official announcement came at 6.30pm.

Three days later, he marked the 21st anniversary of his own father's death — a man whom the Queen had counted as one of her closest friends. The 7th Earl, whom the Queen

'My father and the Queen were great, great friends'

affectionately called Porchey, was not only her racing manager from 1969 until his death on September 11, 2001, but her confidant.

Because he died on the same day as the 9/11 atrocities, when Her Majesty made her emotional address to those who had lost loved ones in New York, many felt she also spoke of her dear friend Porchey when she said with heartfelt sadness: 'Grief is the price we pay for love.'

'I went down with Fiona to my father's grave [on Highclere Castle estate in Hampshire]. We just sat there silently with all the different memories going back so many years to when I was small, including our time spent with the Queen.'

'Her death was a huge shock for all of us. You're a bit flooded with emotion really with the Queen passing and my father's anniversary, because their lives were so entwined. They had a very special friendship.'

Porchey was one of the few people with a direct line to Her Majesty. They spoke often and shared many days of 'great gaiety, great enjoyment,' while 'off parade', as Lord Carnarvon puts it, at Sandringham, Windsor, Balmoral and here at Highclere Castle, familiar to millions as the setting for the TV series Downton Abbey.

This closeness between the monarch, her racing manager and their two families is vividly apparent in the intimate family photo albums the Carnarvons have generously, and exclusively, shared with the Mail to show the depth of their affection for the Queen.

They provide a charming — and previously unseen — snapshot of Queen Elizabeth II and her family away from the public eye; a picture of the monarch, not just as head of state, but as a mother and friend.

They are also testament to a friendship that lasted through the generations.

One of the more recent photos, for example, shows a smiling

EXCLUSIVE



by Rebecca Hardy

Queen in wellies posing for a relaxed group photo alongside Prince Philip and the Carnarvons — Fiona, George and their son Edward — at Highclere in 2007.

Much earlier snaps reveal a grinning Charles — now our King — as a boy larking around at Balmoral, where the 7th Earl and his family would join the Royal

Family on holiday. The Queen laughs uproariously as kilt-clad children muck around on the moorland.

Another shows Her Majesty cradling the current Earl at his christening in 1956, his proud parents standing by.

Numerous photos show Her Majesty and Porchey at the races or inspecting horses together. Indeed, they were so close that the 'silly' (Lord Carnarvon's word) Netflix series The Crown tried to make mischief of it, suggesting an intimate relationship.

'Everything about that series was wrong, from how my parents-in-law met, to what happened to friendships,' says Lady Carnarvon. 'None of us watched it because otherwise you just get upset and you can't really answer back.'

'Anyone can be a target for all sorts of silly, silly stuff but it [their friendship] was never anything,' says Lord Carnarvon.

'Absolutely not. The Queen and Prince Philip were very, very strong



Memories: Lord Carnarvon at his home, Highclere Castle

at a young age and the same with my parents.'

In 1956, the 7th Earl married Jeanie, from Wyoming, who

became the Countess of Carnarvon — and who only died three years ago, in 2019.

Such was the bond of friendship between them that the Queen, who remained close to the Countess following the Earl's death, attended her funeral.

'My father and the Queen were just great, great friends. He'd known her since they were both quite small after being introduced at a party.'

'He was one of the people who ran around London on VE Day with her and Princess Margaret incognito. She wasn't obvious to people in her uniform with her hat so they all — there were about 12 of them — took off and congo-ed and ran around.'

'He was also a fountain of common sense and calm appraisal of things. There were regular phone conversations with my father always.'

Lady Carnarvon adds: 'Your father would also go and stay there

TURN TO PAGE 26

'We're all flooded with emotion, she was part of our family for years' The Queen's godson shares his memories and intimate family album



Larking around in the Highlands: In these exclusive pictures from Lord Carnarvon's family photo albums, a relaxed Charles and Anne (right) are seen having fun on holiday with the Carnarvons at Balmoral



Power steering: The Queen gives Charles an early driving lesson with a toy car, left. Above, the young prince practises his smile



Holiday japes: Charles, left, looks on as Anne prepares to give someone the royal chop on a Balmoral rock — watched by a laughing Queen and Jeanie Carnarvon (second from right)



Thoroughbred friends: The 7th Earl — known as Porchey and the Queen's racing manager — with Her Majesty at Newbury races

FROM PAGE 24

just to quietly walk around Sandringham stud. He was not someone to seek influence. He was simply a friend.

'He wasn't a courtier. They could have an honest silence.'

Lord Carnarvon, 65, agrees.

'They were both country orientated people who had a great shared passion for thoroughbreds and breeding racehorses.'

'The Queen had an encyclopaedic mind about it. My father was pretty good but he always used to say he would be hard put to beat the Queen.'

'The excitement was just absolutely intense when she won. You can see it in the great photos of her when she won the big French classic race [the Prix de Diane at Chantilly in 1974] with Highclere, named because my grandfather's stallion Queen's Hussar [who sired her] stood at Highclere Stud.'

'It's why this [the Queen's death] is a poignant thing.'

'It's the end of a great era — of my parents, of the Queen and Prince Philip. They were fantastic times... it's difficult.'

He rubs a hand over his face to stop the tears

'When the Queen was off parade, she had a great sense of fun'

that threaten. 'I'm in floods of tears now,' he apologises.

We meet in the grand library at Highclere which once rang to laughter on many nights of 'great gaiety'. The 7th Earl was a larger-

than-life character with a penchant for amateur dramatics and the Queen was a regular visitor to the castle.

'The Queen had an amazing singing voice and thoroughly enjoyed all of that. She used to go and watch your father, didn't she?' Lady Carnarvon turns to her husband of 23 years.

Lord Carnarvon concurs: 'Absolutely. He liked all the fun of parties and music and practical jokes. Charades was a big game my father and Her Majesty liked. She was pretty good.'

'When the Queen was, as you might say, off parade she had a great sense of fun, although you had to have the gin and Dubonnet done the right way.'

Today, the mood is sombre.

Lord Carnarvon, who's usually more comfortable outdoors in an open-necked shirt, wears the black tie of mourning. His gaze is drawn time and again towards the writing desk lined with photographs of the Queen. There are so many memories.

'They talked about wider subjects than just horses,' he says.

'She'd discuss with my father her overall views about things in life. It's not something I would be necessarily always privy to. She very much saw the amusing side of things and wanted people to have fun when they were around her.'

'She was always the sovereign but there was an element of being more relaxed and informal until you were back on parade again.'

He turns to Lady Carnarvon and says: 'Do you remember Windsor Castle and how we used to speed — because there's enormous distances in the building — to get to the formal meals on time on weekends there?'

She laughs.

'Yes, and I'd usually have my shoes off and be running along the

with Prince Philip and indeed Prince Charles, but I think it's sometimes forgotten how interested the Queen was in the land. I used to go out with my father among the foals and yearlings with him and with her.'

'She also gave my father one of the best working dogs he'd ever had, this cocker spaniel called Mango. He was trained by the Queen's dog man and he was extraordinary. It was these sort of relationships that are important.'

Lord Carnarvon's earliest memory in life is being brought down to see the Queen when he was a small boy in short trousers. 'It was at teatime at Milford Lake House (his parent's home on the estate) where I grew up.'

'I really was quite small. It would have been in the era when I was

'Monday will be a tough day for everybody'

brought in by a nanny — a kid sort of this high with shorts.' He raises his hand to the height of the arm on the sofa.

At 13 years old he was her Page of Honour, holding her train at the State Opening of Parliament in 1970.

'It was very kind of her but fairly terrifying that one was expected to be doing this kind of thing,' he says, explaining he was a very shy child.

'You can imagine in the preparation room you get to see the incredible crown and the diamonds and all of it and the incredibly terrifying Duke of Norfolk [the formidable 16th Duke Bernard Marmaduke Fitzalan-Howard] is in charge.'

'He was saying, "Oh, you're going to be walking into this room. There's going to be 700 members of the House of Lords". No one told me that the trumpet was going off and I was going to jump about six inches in the air.'

Lord Carnarvon also remembers the barbecues at Balmoral where Prince Philip was 'the absolute chef excellence there's ever been' and picnics where 'the weather was never going to be a barrier to anything so there was certainly a Britishness about it...'

'I remember being at Balmoral and being asked to help with the feeding of the corgis.'

'When you've been there you're not sure how friendly, necessarily, they're going to be.'

Lord Carnarvon's eyes rest on the photographs for a final time. 'Those days are the past,' he says. 'They were fantastic and they were kind but it's all gone.'

'We look forward now to supporting King Charles and that's that. It was a great era and it is no more.'

'I shall get emotional again now, but Monday is going to be a really tough day for everybody.'

'It's the end of an era... they were fantastic times'

corridor, stopping before going round the corner to put my shoes back on and then try to walk in a more stately fashion to make sure we were not late.'

The Queen has been a part of Lord Carnarvon's life since he was a few weeks old.

The photograph of her holding him at his christening is on the writing desk, alongside those of a carefree Queen out in the fields. You can see how truly relaxed she was here with those she trusted.

'One of the things the Queen did appreciate here was the fact she was going to a place where the family was still fully engaged in the farming scene.'

'She came here for the horses but she and my father used to go out on the estate in general and talk about sheep or beef cattle or all the crops. I know that's very much associated



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IMPORTANT READER ANNOUNCEMENT

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AS PRINCE Philip's biographer, and as the chairman of one of his favourite charities, I got to know the late Queen's husband quite well over more than 40 years, and I thought the Duke of Edinburgh was irreplaceable. I was wrong.

Observing King Charles III and his Queen Consort travelling to the four corners of the United Kingdom this week, watching them together every step of the way through the difficult, tense and crowded ten days since the Queen died, I see my old boss (and hero) reborn — in Camilla.

If we regard the remarkable reign of Elizabeth II as a success — and most of us do — the joint author of that success was Prince Philip. And if Charles III's reign proves to work out as sure-footedly as it has begun, the co-author of *that* success will be Camilla.

The King's wife of 17 years, Camilla is his 'non-negotiable' partner, whose value to him and whose worth as a person were so clearly recognised by Elizabeth II. In her Platinum Jubilee message earlier this year, the Queen declared her 'sincere wish' that her daughter-in-law become Queen Consort.

Elizabeth II was a wise woman. She knew what she was doing and, as ever, she got it right.

Famously, the Queen described Prince Philip as her 'strength and stay'. That's exactly what Camilla is to Charles. She is fundamental to the architecture of his life.

She is his good companion and best friend and, now that his children have left home (one has even left the country), she is the only person with whom he can be completely free and open.

He could confide in his grandmother (and absolutely did) and in his mother (the soul of discretion), but they are both gone now. Camilla is the ally who knows him better than anyone and, now that he's King, the only person who can still treat him as an equal.

I have watched them at close quarters, before they were married and since, at Highgrove, Clarence House and Buckingham Palace. He adores her, clearly. In small talk, he mentions 'my darling wife' in almost every sentence. She looks at him with a kindly eye, amused and aware of his foibles.

When he gets tetchy (as displayed this week to fountain pens and their holders) she soothes him, occasionally kneading him gently in the small of his back. When he is running late or talking too much, she tugs at the back of his jacket — sometimes quite vigorously.

Like Prince Philip, Camilla has accepted her destiny. She did not seek it. She has never wanted to be centre stage. Prince Philip always knew he was the support act, not the star attraction, too. In more than 60 years as the Queen's consort, he never over-reached himself. He always made sure he walked one step behind Her Majesty. Watch closely and you'll see that Camilla does the same.

BACK in July, along with the actress Dame Joanna Lumley, I hosted a happy lunch to mark Camilla's 75th birthday.

The guests were all friends and admirers, theatrical knights and dames, sports personalities and Chelsea Pensioners, Twiggy, Michael Palin and Andrew Lloyd Webber — the usual suspects.

The Duchess of Cornwall (as she was then) made a speech worthy of the Duke of Edinburgh. She talked about the year she was born, 1947, adding: 'By the way, a vintage year for claret.'

It was also, she told us: 'The year when the first of the Ealing Comedies was released, the school leaving age was raised to 15, Gardeners' Question Time was first broadcast, the University of Cambridge admitted women to full membership and soft loo paper went on sale for the first time, in Harrods — much to the nation's relief.'

We laughed and then a hush fell as, deliberately, she paused before saying: 'It was also in 1947 that the



by Gyles
Brandreth

then Princess Elizabeth married Lieutenant Philip Mountbatten — two of the most remarkable people in our country's history.'

Looking over her glasses, she nailed her colours to the mast: 'The Duke of Edinburgh's philosophy was clear,' she declared. "Look up and look out, say less, do more — and get on with the job." And that is just what I intend to do.'

That is exactly what she has been doing this week, and will continue to do in the months and years ahead.

I first met Camilla when we were both teenagers in the 1960s. I was at a boarding school in Hampshire and visited her grandparents at their rather grand manor house, Hall Place, nearby.

About ten years ago, on the BBC radio comedy programme *Just A Minute*, out of the blue I was given the subject 'My Secret Crush' to talk about. Suddenly, spontaneously, for 60 seconds, I found myself talking about Camilla and that first teenage encounter in 1964.

I conjured up a picture of the future Queen Consort wearing riding jodhpurs and hiding in the shrubbery of her grandparents' garden smoking Woodbines.

Of course, it never occurred to me that Her Majesty (as she now is) might be listening.

It turns out that *Just A Minute* is one of her favourite programmes, and a few days after the broadcast she bumped into my wife at a flower show for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee at our local church.

Camilla said: 'Tell Gyles I don't deny I was smoking, but it definitely wasn't Woodbines. I deny the Woodbines absolutely!'

She doesn't deny that she was a naughty girl at times. She remembers her (quite strict) grandmother with affection, and happy holidays at Hall Place with her much-loved younger sister, Annabel, rolling down the Hampshire hills, catching butterflies, making mischief.

Annabel remembers that her beloved teddy bear was once buried in the garden by Camilla, who only owned up to it years later. Says Camilla: 'Yes, Tiddy Bear — he had a very happy resting ground.'

'I've not forgiven her,' insists Annabel. 'It still rankles!'

The new King listens to *Just A Minute*, too. In fact, he told me he used to leave voicemail messages for William and Harry in the style of *Just A Minute*, doing his best to say what he had to say in

Gyles Brandreth first met Camilla when they were both teenagers — and she was puffing on what he insists was a crafty Woodbine. They have been thick as thieves ever since. Here, in a joyously irreverent portrait, he says she'll be...

The LEAST STUFFY Queen

Windsor Castle by car or disappear into a room at the back of the Royal Box to watch the cricket.

Camilla endeared herself to the Queen by sharing her love of dogs and racing.

Much of a royal consort's life is mundane and repetitive — unveiling plaques, shaking hands, looking interested. It's relentless. It could drive you mad.

Prince Philip kept himself sane, he told me, by 'consciously always living in the moment, focusing on what's in front of you', and, alongside all the mumbo jumbo and flummery of royal life, getting stuck in to his own projects.

Camilla has followed his example. She performs the necessary duties in support of her husband, but also has interests that are wholly hers and far from superficial. Her

commitment to research into the causes of osteoporosis was born out of her mother's battle with the condition. She told me that at times it was so bad for her mother that if you touched her or tried to move her, 'she literally screamed'.

Camilla cares about literacy, too. Prince Philip's legacy is the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. I have a hunch that the Queen Consort's might be her Reading Room.

It began as a kind of online book club where Camilla recommended books she had enjoyed, and is now a literary hub, with events and festival collaborations — 150,000 people have signed up.

Camilla has known loneliness — there were dark days for her in the 1990s — and has found solace and companionship in books. She wants everyone, especially the



PICTURES: ANTHONY DEVLIN/PA/BARRY SWABE ARCHIVE

Kind-hearted: Camilla and, above, as a teenager in 1965

IN history!

young, to discover the power and pleasure of reading.

Like Prince Philip, the Queen Consort runs a busy diary with a lean team. She has a handful of younger women running her office and a group of girlfriends her age who can now serve her as ladies-in-waiting. She brought three of them to her birthday lunch and they were fun and funny like her.

Her son, Tom Parker Bowles, and his daughter Lola, came to the party, too, as a surprise — they brought in the birthday cake.

The Queen Consort is close to Tom and his sister, Laura, and to her five grandchildren but, very much like Prince Philip, she knows she has to leave the next generation to do their own thing. As the Duke of Edinburgh said to me of his offspring, 'You've just got to let

them get on with it. I try to keep out of these things.'

I have seen the Queen Consort's grandchildren with Charles at Clarence House, jumping up and ragging him. He obviously adores them. I have also seen the lovely photograph of Harry and Meghan that has pride of place in the Clarence House drawing room.

Like Prince Philip, Camilla also has her own bolthole. The Duke of Edinburgh would escape to his own cottage, Wood Farm, an unpretentious farmhouse close to the sea on the Sandringham Estate, two miles from the 'big house'.

Similarly, Camilla still has her own home, Ray Mill House in Wiltshire. She can disappear there and simply be herself.

Like Prince Philip, she is very familiar with court life, but far from

wedded to it. Philip was an outsider (a prince of Greece) when he married Princess Elizabeth in 1947, but he had royal blood in his veins stretching back generations.

Camilla was also an outsider with her own royal connections. She's descended from, among others, Arnold Joost van Keppel, 1st Earl of Albemarle, a favourite (and possibly a lover) of William III.

Charles Lennox, 1st Duke of Richmond, is in her family tree, too. He was the illegitimate son of Charles II by his French mistress, Louise, who became the Duchess of Portsmouth.

Camilla is also the great-granddaughter of Alice Keppel, the last love of our new King's great-great-grandfather, Edward VII.

'A lively crowd, eh?' she said to me of her family once, laughing. It

was at one of the drinks parties I give to mark the birthday of the Victorian playwright, Oscar Wilde. Camilla's great-grandfather, Alec Shand, was once engaged to a girl called Constance Lloyd, who went on to marry Wilde.

At that party I introduced Camilla to Baga Chipz, one of the stars of RuPaul's Drag Race, and to April Ashley, one of the first British people known to have gender reassignment surgery at the beginning of the 1960s. They got on like a house on fire. Camilla is brilliant with people. It's always all about them. It's never about her.

The Queen Consort's great-great-

great-grandfather was Thomas Cubitt, a builder who reconstructed Buckingham Palace. Queen Victoria loved him. When he died, she said, 'A better, kinder-hearted or more simple, unassuming man never breathed.'

Elizabeth II called Camilla 'a very special lady'. I think she is special, as you can tell. She is totally normal and unspoilt. She is like Prince Philip in that she is outward-looking, optimistic and not remotely self-centred.

PHILIP boosted the Queen's morale by telling her how lovely she looked and how well she was doing. He also threw in what he called his 'two pennyworth' from time to time.

Camilla does this with Charles, offering praise, encouragement and common sense as required. According to my wife, men need this a lot more than women do.

But there are differences between the last royal consort and this new one. Prince Philip loved flying. Camilla hates it, squeezing her husband's hand on take-off and distracting herself with Travel Scrabble through the turbulence.

Camilla is easy company always — which Prince Philip wasn't. He could be cantankerous, and frankly quite frightening. While he came to loathe the Press, Camilla (who has had a pretty rough ride in the media over the years) does not appear to hold any grudges.

The Duke of Edinburgh was impatient with photographers — 'Just take the f***** picture!'

Camilla as Duchess of Cornwall was happy to do selfies — to the dismay of her protection officer. As Queen Consort that may change. If it does, it won't be her doing.

She is going to be the least stuffy Queen in history, and exactly the consort the new King needs: as charming as the Queen Mother, as committed as Queen Mary, and as kind as Queen Alexandra.

With her immediate predecessor, Prince Philip, as her role model, she will be looking up, looking out, saying less, doing more, and getting on with the job. God save the King. Long live the Queen Consort. (I still think they were Woodbines.)

Daily Mail

COMMENT

Final curtain nears on this poignant drama

IN death as in life, Queen Elizabeth II has demonstrated a unique ability to bind together our sometimes fractious nation.

The ten days since her passing have brought out the very best in the Royal Family and in the country.

They have emphasised our shared sense of history. They have showcased Britain's remarkable gift for pomp and pageant.

And above all, they have served as a much-needed reminder that far more unites us in these islands than divides us.

The sheer scale of the ceremonial operation since last Thursday has been awe-inspiring.

Inevitably there have been one or two minor hitches – a malfunctioning pen here, a queueing problem there. But overall it has been a triumph of organisation.

From Balmoral to St Giles' Cathedral, Edinburgh to RAF Northolt, and Buckingham Palace to Westminster Hall, the Queen's coffin has been borne with immense dignity.

Yesterday's vigil at the catafalque by her four children was especially moving and will be mirrored today in an equally emotional silent tribute by all eight of her grandchildren.

Meanwhile, the willingness of her subjects to queue in their hundreds of thousands for up to 14 hours to see her lying in state shows the love and esteem they had for her.

For King Charles, grief and loss have gone hand in hand with a hectic schedule of travelling around the country to receive condolences and solidify his position as monarch of the United Kingdom.

And he has encouraged the reconciliation of his estranged sons (for now at least), something that would have given his mother enormous satisfaction.

But in many ways it has been the royal women whose role in this poignant national drama has been most striking.

Princess Anne, devoted daughter and most hard-working of all the royals, was at her mother's bedside in the last hours at Balmoral and has been with her on every sorrowful step of her final journey.

Sophie, Countess of Wessex, who had become extremely close to the late Queen in recent years, moved graciously among the crowds of well-wishers despite finding it hard to disguise her obvious pain.

Camilla, the Queen Consort, has been a tower of strength to Charles. The new Princess of Wales, with her trademark poise, has provided similarly constant support and solace to her own husband. They have all played their parts to perfection.

So now we look forward to Monday and the biggest state occasion certainly since the funeral of Winston Churchill in 1965 and probably since that of Queen Victoria more than 120 years ago.

Crowned heads from Bhutan to Belgium will join presidents and prime ministers, courtiers and key workers in a 2,000-strong congregation at Westminster Abbey.

The service will be followed by interment with her parents and sister Margaret in the King George VI Memorial Chapel, Windsor. Prince Philip's coffin, currently lying in the royal vault at St George's Chapel, will be buried beside her.

Over 70 tumultuous years, the Queen has steered the monarchy through perilous times with skill and fortitude, evoking respect and affection in equal measure.

Even the heavens seem to have marked her passing, with a double rainbow appearing over Buckingham Palace and a celestial fireball seen hurtling across northern skies.

There are prosaic scientific explanations of course. But there's no doubt these phenomena have added to the grandeur and mystique of the occasion.

They call to mind Calpurnia's words in Julius Caesar: 'When beggars die, there are no comets seen. The heavens themselves blaze forth the death of princes.' Could she have been right?

SATURDAY ESSAY by Andrew Neil

THE death of the Queen has been a timely opportunity to take stock of our nation, to re-examine what kind of place we've become.

Contrary to the miserabilist musings of much of the establishment commentariat and its social media echo chambers, whose default position is always to run Britain down, the condition of the country is actually rather good.

For a start, it turns out that we still matter on the international stage, otherwise why would the Queen's death be an event of such global mourning, with the world's leaders flocking to London for her funeral on Monday?

Our precious 300-year-old Union would also still seem to have life in it yet. As thousands of Scots who lined the roads from Balmoral to Edinburgh to pay their respects to the passing cortege of their Queen of Scots — and many thousands more who lined the Royal Mile of the Scottish capital in silence and respect as it moved from Holyrood Palace to St Giles' Cathedral — illustrated beyond argument.

The Scots and the English have shared a monarchy for 100 years more than they've shared a parliament.

Indeed, with the Union of the Crowns in 1603, the Scottish monarchy in the shape of James VI mounted what today we'd call a reverse takeover to become James I of England.

By dying in Balmoral, the Queen reminded Scots they are not just some remote outpost of the Union but an integral part. It was, unwittingly or not, her last (and lasting) gift to the Union.

Nor are we the divisive, racist, nasty hellhole so many agitators and academics would have us believe, as one look at the world's longest queue wending its way through London to pay its respects to the Queen lying in state in Westminster Hall confirms.

This is the Britain of all classes, regions and ethnicities, shuffling along the banks of the Thames together in harmony and shared grief.

The Commonwealth, too, would seem to be alive and kicking. It was the Queen's life's work and republicans in its member-countries are not rushing to the barricades to remove the British monarchy as their head of state now she has gone. Even if some do decide to become republics in the years ahead it is not the metric that matters.

MOST of the Commonwealth's 56 members are already republics. None is thinking of giving up its membership.

Indeed, countries that weren't even part of the British Empire are joining. It makes the Commonwealth a unique achievement in post-colonial history. It is, above all, a British achievement.

We're not good at recognising our achievements. Our elites in particular wallow in running us down. Author and arch-reactionary A.N. Wilson was at it again in this week's Spectator claiming that in the Queen's reign, Britain 'lost all its political influence in the world'.

Really? Perhaps he should consult President Zelensky of Ukraine before writing that again.

Or the leaders of Sweden and Finland on the role Britain played in getting them to join

Nato. We know we no longer have an empire — and that's a good thing. But the idea we've descended into irrelevance is for the birds.

The extent to which the death of the Queen has become a global event is quite remarkable — and speaks volumes for the reach of our culture and institutions.

In my lifetime I can think of only three deaths with similar international impact: the assassination of President Kennedy in 1963, the death of Winston Churchill in 1965 and of Nelson Mandela in 2013. The global grieving for the Queen is bigger than all three.

It is estimated that about four billion around the world will tune in at some stage to Monday's funeral — around half the planet's population. No other head of state's funeral would garner anything like that interest or audience.

Even a country such as India, where the scars of colonialism still smart and populist politicians are ever ready to exploit them, has held its Day of Remembrance for the Queen amid much mourning.

Other nations, including Brazil, which have few historic or cultural ties to Britain have done likewise.

President Biden immediately made it clear he was coming on Monday, which startled his White House team since he hadn't bothered to consult it.

No U.S. President has ever attended a British State Funeral. Even China's President Xi Jinping is sending a delegation led by his most important vice-president.

Perhaps President Macron explained it best. To us, she was our Queen. But to France and much of the world she was the Queen.

To those who say the world simply has an outdated and irrational fascination with monarchy, I say this: there are 27 other monarchies in the world and none comes even close to the global interest in, or respect for, the British monarchy.

Even the mighty New York Times, whose bile and bilge when it comes to Britain knows no bounds and whose coverage of our country has become even more ludicrously malevolent in the aftermath of the Queen's death, was forced to report from its homeland that for many Americans she was also 'Queen of America'.

I write these words across



the road from the United Nations in New York, where security is tight and police armed to the teeth are everywhere in preparation for next week's general assembly, when the world's leaders gather.

EXCEPT it's become very much a second-order event because so many of these leaders have chosen to shorten their visit to attend Monday's funeral. Only the Queen could overshadow the UN!

This is what political scientists call 'soft power' and Britain has it in spades, from the monarchy down. The Queen has used it at crucial moments in our history, from keeping the Commonwealth together when it threatened to split asunder over sanctions against apartheid South Africa, to furthering peace and reconciliation in Ireland — even to securing U.S. support for Britain's bid to reclaim the Falklands in 1982 by offering President Reagan the prospect of horse riding with the Queen in a royal park.

Her death has brought back to the fore virtues she lived by

but which had become increasingly unfashionable: duty, responsibility, reserve, civility, modesty. The Queen never mistook royalty for celebrity, a distinction that has sadly eluded Meghan Markle, thereby undermining what could have been a fresh and seminal contribution to royal life.

In an age when popular culture is infested by the self-promoting, vacuous, preening narcissism of social media and reality TV, a renewed appreciation of old-fashioned qualities is not before its time.

That the Queen was forever guided by them is a major reason, I believe, that the Crown has passed to Charles with the monarchy in fine fettle.

It was not always thus. There have been times in recent memory when the monarchy was in real trouble. I confess to playing a part in causing some of these troubles.

In July 1986, as editor of the Sunday Times, I published a story, splashed across page one, headlined 'Queen dismayed by "uncaring" Thatcher'. It revealed that the Queen's dismay went far beyond then Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's opposi-

Week that proved Britain ISN'T the declining power the liberal elite loves to portray us as



By **ANDREW NEIL... who's caused the monarchy one or two headaches in his time**

tion to sanctions against South Africa.

She considered the Government to be 'uncaring, confrontational and socially divisive' in everything from the coal miners' strike to allowing U.S. bombers to take off from British airfields to attack Colonel Gaddafi's terrorist-supporting Libya.

The Queen was not our source. But several senior aides were, most notably her most senior press officer. I doubt they would have spoken thus if they hadn't thought the Queen would have approved.

The story sparked a constitutional crisis for monarch and prime minister — and a career crisis for me. Thatcher, a great royalist, hated being on the wrong end of the Queen. But for the monarch it was even more dangerous: a life-

time of avoiding party political interventions had been carelessly abandoned. Buckingham Palace and 10 Downing Street united in denying the story and, behind the scenes, engineered for me to be sacked.

But I mounted a robust defence and survived. The only one fired was the Palace press secretary.

Years later I lunched with an old friend, Norman St John-Stevan (who became Lord St John of Fawsley), a staunch royalist and friend of the Royal Family. I asked him why he had attacked me when he knew the story to be true.

'It was true,' he replied 'which is precisely why I had to deny it.'

Not long after that, Sunday Times columnist and TV interviewer extraordinaire, the late, great Brian Walden, dined privately

with Thatcher and teased her about the story being true.

'I know, Brian, I know,' she said. 'The problem is the Queen is the kind of woman who could vote Social Democratic.'

There is no question I had caused the Queen, indeed the monarchy, a great deal of trouble. But I like to think I did both a huge favour. Never again did the Palace seek to dabble in party politics, having got its fingers so badly burnt.

King Charles please note.

Spool on to 1992 and I caused the monarchy even more trouble by serialising Andrew Morton's searingly revelatory book, *Diana: Her True Story*. Once again, the powers that be piled into me and the Sunday Times, including the Establishment bover boys of the Tory press: Paul Johnson, Peregrine

Worsthorne, Max Hastings and Charles Moore.

Hastings, then editor of the Telegraph, dismissed our serialisation as 'a deluge of rubbish and a farago of invention'. Moore, then a columnist for The Spectator (he still is, which only shows my magnanimity as the magazine's chairman) debated the matter with me on BBC2's *Newsnight*, arguing journalists should show 'hypocrisy and concealment' when writing about the Royal Family.

Jeremy Paxman looked incredulous. I replied that I had not come into journalism to do that.

Snobbery was rife. Morton was attacked as unreliable for the unforgivable sin of coming from Leeds. I don't think they were any more impressed by me coming from Paisley. I was even advised not to

Picture: DANNY LAWSON/PA

go to a polo match near Windsor in case some young buff from the Guards took a swing at me.

Of course they all looked somewhat ludicrous when it became apparent that Morton's book, including revelations of suicide attempts, eating disorders and infidelities, had come directly from Diana's own testimony.

At the time, the serialisation and subsequent publication of the book did the monarchy great harm. It was part of what the Queen subsequently called her '*annus horribilis*', culminating in a terrible fire at her beloved Windsor.

The monarchy was so unpopular that, when the Government announced the taxpayer would foot the bill for the restoration work, such was the public outcry it had to think again.

Seen from the perspective of this weekend, such tales sound like they come from another time.

The Queen has spent the final two decades of her life painstakingly restoring the monarchy's reputation. Charles could not wish for a better inheritance.

But what happened back then is not without a vital lesson for him — that reputations are hard won but easily lost. He has got off to a fine start, bar his unseemly tussles with pen nibs. His first address to the nation was pitch perfect, his interaction with well-wishers and mourners spotless, his visit to Belfast magisterial, another boost for the Union.

ABOVE all our new King gets what is probably the Queen's greatest legacy of all: the notion that even in the 21st century a constitutional monarchy is not such a bad way of running a country.

Indeed, glancing around the world, it looks rather better than the alternatives. Across the Atlantic, the U.S. republic is more divided and disputatious than it's been for generations. Extremism flourishes on the Left and Right. Consensus and co-operation are dirty words. Urban violence is endemic. Revered historical figures, including even Washington and Lincoln, are being denigrated to accommodate the prejudices of the new culture warriors.

Across the Channel, populism is on the rise. In this year's French parliamentary elections, the hard left and the hard right made the most gains, to a degree inconceivable in our House of Commons.

The likely winner in Italy's general election later this month is a party that can trace its roots back to Mussolini. The European Union has judged Viktor Orbán's Hungary is now barely a democracy.

For the undiluted evil still ruling so much of the world you only had to look at the gathering of Central Asia's gerontocratic dictators in Samarkand this week — President Xi as guest of honour and President Putin in tow. We are, thankfully, a long way from any of that.

By comparison, constitutional monarchy is positively benign. It seems to encourage moderation and continuity. Our leading politicians on both sides of the Commons may be a rum, undistinguished bunch but our society is stable and pacific. We have just changed our prime minister and monarch in short order. Nobody has rioted or even demonstrated.

King Charles's most precious mission is to pass on to William and Kate a constitutional monarchy revered as much as the one the Queen has now passed to him.

The new Prince and Princess of Wales look as safe a pair of hands as any monarchy could hope for.

If the Charles interregnum can secure their inheritance, then the monarchy is likely safe for the rest of the 21st century. Not many royalists could have been sure of that only a couple of decades ago.

Forest of graves

Where Russia left 200 victims of its brutal occupation



Burial ground: Simple wooden crosses in a forest outside Izyum

STRETCHING back into the trees, ranks of crude wooden crosses mark the last resting place of more than 200 Ukrainians – most of them civilians – slaughtered in Putin's invasion.

The burials are part of a grave site of around 450 individuals that yesterday officials began exhuming around the newly liberated town of Izyum.

Some of the bodies showed signs of torture, with their hands tied behind their backs and ropes around their necks, it was claimed. Others revealed injuries consistent with rocket or shelling attacks.

President Volodymyr Zelensky accused Russia of genocide and called for the occupiers to be held to account. He said on social media

By **James Franey**
Europe Correspondent

yesterday: 'The world must act. Russia must be recognised as a state sponsor of terrorism. Russia leaves only death and suffering.'

It follows the successful Ukrainian counteroffensive against Moscow's forces around Kharkiv in the north-east of the country. Ukrain-

'At least ten torture centres'

ian police chief Igor Klymenko said most of those in the mass graves were civilians.

'We have information that there are soldiers there too, we haven't recovered a single one yet,' he said. Initial accounts suggested some

Keeping toll: An inspector makes a record of yet another grave

may have also died from a lack of access to healthcare.

Mr Klymenko said his forces had also discovered 'the presence of at least ten torture centres' across territories formerly held by Russia in the Kharkiv region. The UN said yesterday that it plans to send a team of investigators to the area.

Russia held the area for more than five months. Izyum was used as a logistics hub by its army.

The Ukrainian military's recent successes saw its soldiers kick out Russian forces across an area roughly the same size as Crete over the past week.

It has boosted morale and also strengthened Mr Zelensky's case

for the West to send more weapons. To add to Putin's woes, Russia's army is falling short of infantry and junior officers, according to the Ministry of Defence in London yesterday.

There was further humiliation after the independent Russian media outlet Meduza reported that he is furious at increasingly heavy drinking by aides since the Ukraine invasion.

Quoting a source close to the president, it said: 'They hit the bottle [in February]. And some of them don't want to stop. Some [officials] have missed important events; others have slurred their words and said things that don't make sense in official settings.'

Oxford back as top university after 12 years

OXFORD has reclaimed the title of best UK university for the first time in 12 years.

It came top out of 132 institutions after excelling in areas such as research and graduate job prospects, and it also had the best student to staff ratio of 10.5.

St Andrews fell from first to second and Cambridge remained third in The Times and The Sunday Times Good University Guide 2023. Also in the top ten were LSE, Imperial, Durham, University College London, Bath, Warwick and Edinburgh. Bath was named university of the year.

KUROSU

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Today's difficulty rating ★★★

EVERY day in the Mail you can play Kuros, the most addictive brainteaser since Sudoku. There are two rules:

1: Fill in each space with either a nought or a cross so there are no more than two consecutive noughts or crosses in any row or column. Important note: diagonals don't count.

2: Each row and column must contain three noughts and three crosses.

For today's solution, see page 56

PLAY more Kuros and 47 puzzles like them every day on your smartphone or tablet with the Mail Digital Edition, your Mail newspaper on your screen. Get a trial offer today at mailpuzzles.co.uk

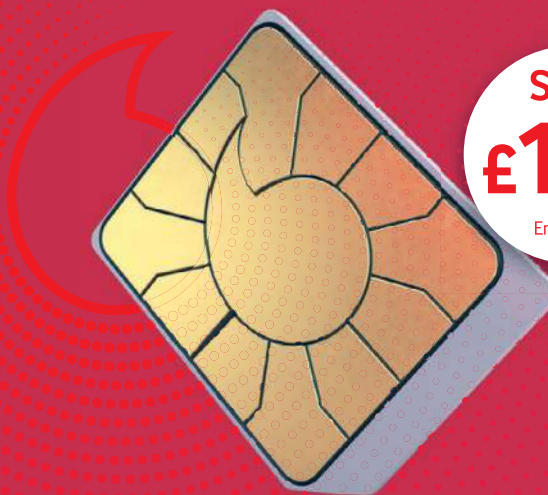
■ Daily Mail Kuros Volume 1 out now! Order for £6.29 (RRP £8.99) from mailshop.co.uk/ books or call 020 3308 9193. Free p&p on orders over £20.



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Platell's People

Delaying your book's not enough, Harry... just bin it!

PRINCE Harry made an emotional tribute to his Granny, saying he was 'forever grateful' for her support for him, his 'darling wife' Meghan and her beloved great-grandchildren Archie and Lilibet — who the Queen had barely met.

Harry added: 'We smile knowing that you and Grandpa are reunited now and both together in peace.'

What a brass neck he has to talk about peace when he and Meghan so selfishly shattered Prince Philip's and the Queen's last weeks before Philip died, with their incendiary Oprah Winfrey interview.

To my mind, their accusations of racism in the Royal Family and claims of callous behaviour towards Meghan caused even more damage than Harry's mother Diana managed at her most vengeful.

Even worse, with brand Archewell on the wane in the U.S. and Netflix demanding its pound of flesh, Harry's still planning to milk the monarchy by publishing his memoirs.

They were to come out later this year and we are supposed to be grateful he has postponed publication until 2023 as a mark of respect for the Queen. But doesn't he realise how damaging it would be to his father, King Charles, for the book to appear just months into his reign?

The delay might give Harry time to add extra chapters about the pain of losing his beloved Granny, to sprinkle

HASN'T King Charles looked splendid in his military uniform with his rakish new longer hair. A style statement — or just an attempt to cover his famously big lugs? Either way, we're lovin' it, Charles.

extra royal magic. This is not about respect but shamelessly monetising the family he's turned his back on.

And what other titbits will he now add about the horrid royals, after William and Kate extended the olive branch by inviting the Sussexes on the Windsor Castle walkabout? Why would any of the senior royals trust him and his wife now — they must fear that anything they say could be used against them.

The funeral should be a time of reconciliation; it still could be. But the Sussexes will never be trusted again if there is a single unkind word about the monarchy in Harry's book.

You may have got \$20million for your memoirs, but the money is dirty, Harry. No publisher would pay that for you to muse about the 'life lessons' that have shaped you. They want sensation — your value is in traducing the royals with your 'truth'.

The family have been denied sight of the book and the Palace is bracing for another Oprah-style nuclear attack. So, Harry, a message from the millions of Brits who once loved you: if you ever again want to hold your head high in the UK, don't just delay your memoirs. Bin the book for ever.



Boomerang Kate will do a Di Down Under

WITH plans afoot for Wills and Kate to visit Australia next year, canny Oz PM Anthony Albanese has ruled out a referendum on ditching the monarchy during his first term. Maybe he's had a word with Bob Hawke, who was PM

when republican sentiments were surging Down Under — until Charles and Diana's sensational tour in 1983. As Hawke said, it set the republican case back decades. The Kate and Wills effect will do exactly the same.

THE crowds of wellwishers clearly loved the Countess of Wessex as much as she did them. Was it just emotion that made her return twice to hug autistic Josh Macpake,

who was carrying a teddy bear dressed like a guardsman?

Or, as his mother Sue believes, did Sophie remember meeting Josh at Blackpool Tower three years ago?

Frisk makes no scents

NO GREAT state occasion is complete without jobsworths in hi-vis jackets. This week, they were only just stopping short of full body searches of those queueing to see the coffin, confiscating

anything from a small bottle of Chanel No 5 to a packet of Werther's Originals. I cannot recall a single recorded injury from a tiny squirt of perfume nor a projectile toffee.

ACTOR Matt Smith, who unconvincingly played Prince Philip in *The Crown*, claimed on American TV that the Queen was a fan and 'used to watch it on a projector on Sunday nights'. A projector! What utter tosh. She'd have been watching the Sunday night results show of *Strictly Come Dancing*.



Nic's tears of a crown

AS SHE watched thousands line the streets when the Queen's coffin passed through Scotland, with many thousands more queueing to pay tribute at her lying-in-state, that

over-stuffed little haggis Nicola Sturgeon was stony-faced — no doubt witnessing her dream for independence dissolve with every loyal royalist Scot's tears.

PUTTING up with a five-mile queue, those waiting 12 to 14 hours to pay their respects to the Queen are of all colours, all creeds, all nationalities — a snapshot of Britain's great diversity and a poke in the eye for Meghan and Harry's claims that we're a bunch of racists.

SALES of corgis rose by 30 per cent in the Queen's final year. Now, after pictures of Charles stroking several of her favourite breed of pooch brought by well-wishers in the crowds, expect their popularity to increase even more.

The days of the Labrador Retriever as top dog are numbered.

When Mum finally met the Queen

MY MUM met the Queen in Perth during her 2011 tour and had a one-on-one greeting with Her Majesty. This was 57 years after a tour where a meeting between Mum and the Queen had to be cancelled because of a polio outbreak.

An aide had told us the Queen's favourite flowers were home-grown, scented, English roses. So the night before, Mum and I set out with a bucket and secateurs, raiding



neighbours' gardens. We practised the bouquet handover in the back garden for hours, yet when the moment came Mum, with early onset Alzheimer's, thought momentarily she was the Queen and refused to hand them over. Her Majesty lowered her smiling face into the roses, firmly grasped them out of Mum's hands and declared them beautiful, saying how lovely it was to finally meet Norma.

IN HER Panorama interview Princess Diana was asked if she hoped William would succeed the Queen rather than the Prince of Wales. She replied: 'My wish is that my husband finds peace of mind, and from that follows other things, yes.' Well, Charles has found peace, with Camilla — so in the end that 'devastating' interview held no sting.

OPRAH WINFREY, whose 2021 Meghan and Harry programme dropped a bomb on the Royal Family, says the Queen's death offers the chance of reconciliation with Kate and William. Surely, all Oprah is interested in is 'reconciling' with Meghan and Harry for their next cruel TV interview.

Doing dysfunctional duty

THE husbands of Princesses Eugenie and Beatrice, respectively Jack Brooksbank and Edoardo Mapelli Mozzi, wore Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee medals —

no doubt for services to duty above and beyond, after marrying into that dysfunctional family led by disgraced Andrew and his cling-on ex-wife Fergie.

SUCH has been the outpouring of emotion, even the republican *Guardian* reported: 'There are two types of people in the UK right now: 1, The people in the queue. 2, The people watching the queue (on

TV) with fascination.' And let's not forget the five million-plus who logged into the website *Flightradar24* to follow the path of the RAF jet bearing the Queen's coffin from Edinburgh to London.

SURPRISE FACT OF THE WEEK: The Queen and Prince Philip's well-seasoned oak, lead-lined coffins were made 30 years ago by specialist

firm Henry Smith, which also produced coffins for Jimi Hendrix, Diana Dors and, perhaps most aptly, Freddie Mercury of... Queen.



by Oscar Cainer

A DOUBLE rainbow over Buckingham Palace, another at Windsor Castle. A brilliant shaft of light illuminating Edinburgh's Royal Mile. A meteor coursing through the Scottish night sky.

The Queen's death and the journey of her coffin have been marked with celestial events that many interpret as having deeper meaning.

Next week brings another heavenly occasion, as the slow-moving giants of the solar system align in an arc of light, creating a Cosmic Boomerang.

This rare astrological event, starting on Wednesday, involves Jupiter, Saturn and Uranus in retrograde, where they appear to move backwards.

Not only does it resemble the aboriginal hunting weapon, but the planets exert a boomerang-like effect, bringing up situations that seem all too recognisable from our recent past.

We're experiencing a moment of pause as the boomerang prepares to start its return journey. With the death of Elizabeth II, there is a sense that we must come together to support institutional changes that will benefit everyone.

Jupiter, the tip of the boomerang, is the Planet of Kings. It's remarkable that on September 26 it will be at its closest to Earth for 70 years — the last time the UK had a male monarch.

Shining brightly right now, it's a sign that hope, healing and good fortune are on their way, a glorious portent for our new King Charles III.

We've all experienced the traumas caused by Saturn and Uranus' spiky relationship in the past two years. Saturn governs institutions, and promotes discipline. Uranus is the planet of eccentric individualism. Whether it's war, disagreements in governments, environmental and energy issues, this clash has caused unprecedented disruption.

As the Cosmic Boomerang hurtles towards us, it brings a chance to create a more balanced, safer, fairer world. We need to catch it and use all we've learned to forge new paths.

With generous Jupiter floating between the two disparate energies, there will be wise ways to work towards the greater good. If we draw on our resources, we'll be able to catch the boomerang and receive it as the gift it is intended to be.

It can be used to carve out a better future. Where hard work is required, it brings the optimism to tackle that work, plus the inspiration to ensure change isn't just for change's sake, but involves meaningful action. So what does the Cosmic Boomerang mean for you?



ARIES (March 21 — April 20)

AS THE Cosmic Boomerang heads in your direction, it might feel as if life's treating you unfairly. You might want to chuck your toys out

of the pram in frustration at your lack of progress. But Jupiter, in your sign, promises that you can get what you want without needing to throw any tantrums.

It enables you to direct your energy in ways that will encourage people to accept your ideas, and kick-start a progressive move forward.

Although you'll need to keep a cool head and rise above sensitive issues that could trigger negativity, you don't have to shoulder every responsibility; being a leader involves knowing how to empower others to make decisions.

This rare alignment helps you discover different ways to pull strings. If you stick to your principles, this is a role in which you can really shine, and instigate positive, important change.



TAURUS (April 21 — May 21)

IT'S not until we let go of something that

we realise how heavy it has actually been.

Recently, it's as if you've been carrying a medicine ball — heavy kit that some athletes use to warm up with — so that when they actually perform, everything they do feels so much lighter and easier.

With the Cosmic Boomerang arriving so soon after the visit of Mars to your sign, you have already done the hard work to prepare for what is coming your way.

Now, even in situations that feel unfamiliar, you can let go of what has been holding you back and play to your potential.

Challenges won't be as difficult as they first appear. A change in mindset is all you need.

If you step forward with optimism, the Cosmic Boomerang will prove that you can handle anything life throws at you with style... and turn it to your advantage.



GEMINI (May 22 — June 22)

ALTHOUGH the Cosmic Boomerang will make you question how you've handled situations in the past and what you have learned, it also enables you to find better ways to approach any of the difficulties you face.

History is full of moments where one person's courageous decision to stick their head above the parapet has given other people the permission to step up and join them.

It doesn't matter if a brave move leads to massive social change, or just makes the world brighter for a short while, you have the power to take on a role that others will follow.

And this once-in-a-lifetime alignment promises the support you need to take bold action. It requires faith and courage to

make this kind of change. But it's a step you won't regret. You're on the road to success.



CANCER (June 23 — July 23)

JUPITER'S influence in the Cosmic Boomerang brings back the enthusiasm you thought you'd lost. It will invigorate you with the energy to keep going, the wisdom to recognise opportunities when they arrive, and the luck you need to be able to take full advantage of the possibilities lining up before you.

It promises that if you believe in what you're trying to accomplish, you can persuade others to back your cause.

As long as you're able to highlight how mutually beneficial your plans will be, you'll find no shortage of people willing to invest in your ideas. Although this

breakthrough might not happen overnight, as we head away from the Boomerang and towards a powerful Eclipse in November, it will culminate in a powerful change in your fortunes.



LEO (July 24 — August 23)

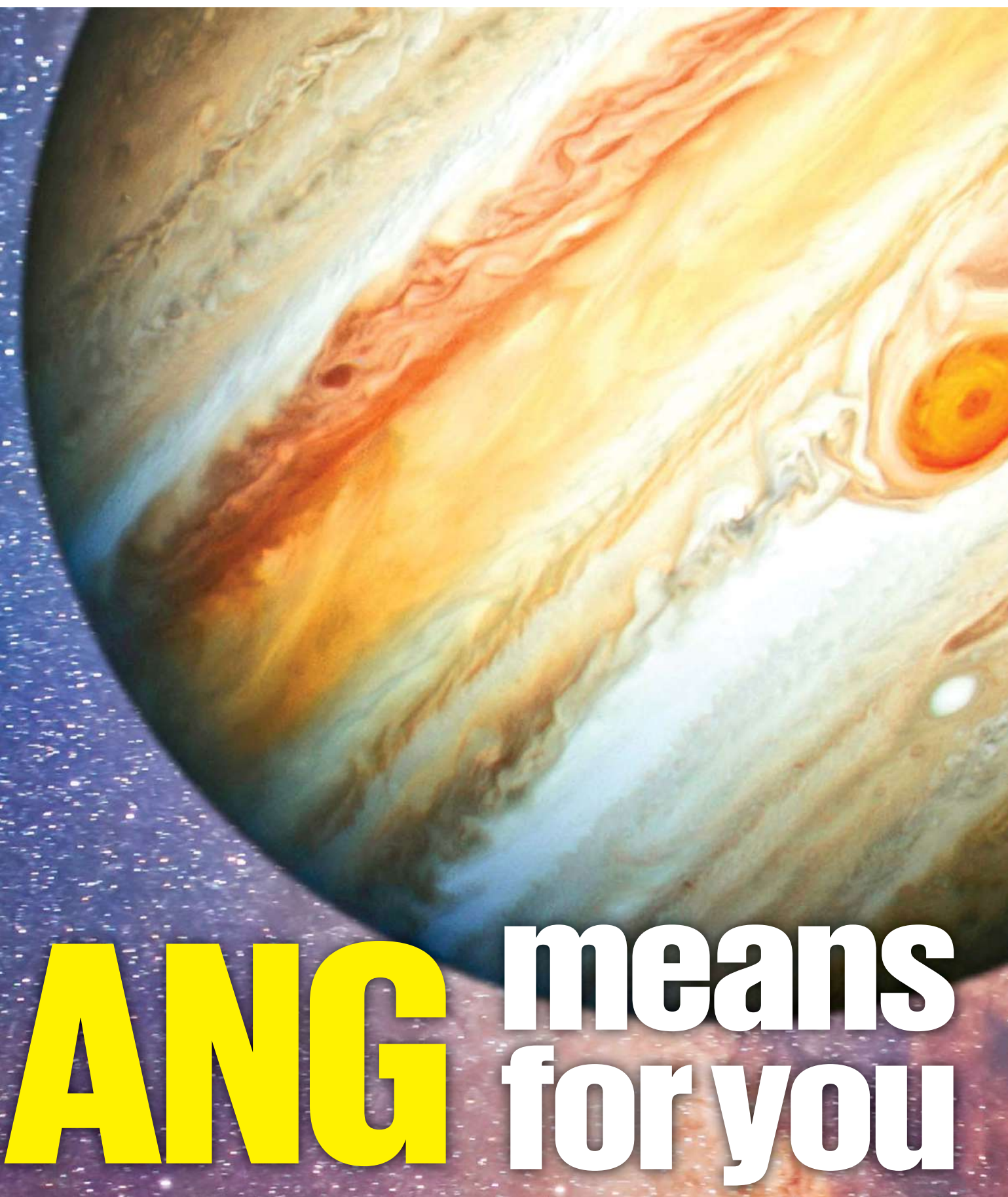
WE ALL need a special teacher, a supportive parent, a close friend or a faithful partner to believe in us. It helps us to defeat self-doubt and faltering self-confidence. The Cosmic Boomerang brings challenge and strength in equal measure.

But it will also bring the inner cheerleader you need to fulfil that supportive role. The only person you need to prove anything to is the one reading this!

You're much stronger than you realise. And coming events will show just how well you can face

It's been such a portentous week with that double rainbow appearing over Buckingham Palace. Now with astonishing timing, Jupiter — the Planet of Kings — will be at its closest to Earth since the death of our last king, in a rare celestial alignment. OSCAR CAINER reveals...

What the COSMIC BOOMER



ANG means for you

any adversities. A change is in the offing and you have the necessary qualities to take full advantage of it.

By having faith in yourself, and pursuing what you know to be right, you won't just head towards greater success, you'll revel in the journey it takes to get there.



VIRGO (August 24 – Sep 23)

THIS rare alignment asks you to look deep inside yourself in ways that might rock your boat, but great progress will come from it. The Cosmic Boomerang makes you question why you're working so hard for something (or someone) who is unwilling to match your effort.

You can't control the attitudes of others. But you can help them reach conclusions they were already on the path to making.

And, in doing so, you can discover more about your own motivation, and reconnect with people you once found difficult to understand.

As Jupiter heads back into your opposite sign next month, there's potential for new understanding in key relationships. It all stems from the growth you're experiencing on the inside.



LIBRA (Sep 24 – Oct 23)

IN THE age of social media and glamour marketing, it's easy to feel inadequate. When we judge ourselves by what society deems to be successful, or by anyone else's standards, we're bound to feel lacking.

The Cosmic Boomerang questions why you're letting someone loom so large in your life. Why are other people's

perspectives taking priority over yours? You're brilliant and unique. Your only weakness is that you sometimes hold back to conform to other people's expectations.

It's time to invest in your own potential. Your creative spark can make a difference.

As September progresses, and you see how effective you can be when you stand in your power, your view of the world will change. And it will change the way it responds to you.



SCORPIO (Oct 24 – Nov 22)

THE influence of the Cosmic Boomerang feels exasperating; you're ready to move on, fast, but events and situations are holding you back.

Yet, if you hold tight, you'll discover the benefits of allowing situations to unfold. Being forced

to be patient might be tough, but you're learning a key skill.

And while you're waiting, circumstances are changing... in favourable ways.

By the time Venus enters your sign in October, you'll be more than ready to put your wisdom to serious use. Your charm level will rocket!

Any changes you wish to make will find support. And by helping other people fulfil their potential you'll find the sense of meaning and purpose you seek.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23 – Dec 21)

THERE are so many 'sensible' reasons not to do so many things, especially when there's an element of risk attached. But while there's safety in the familiar, it doesn't bring change. The Cosmic Boomerang

enables you to solve a problem that has no logical answer. To find it, you just need to have faith in your ability to improvise.

It asks you to take a leap of faith knowing that even a noble failure will put you in a stronger position than you're in now... and knowing that a big success is possible.

Fortune favours the bold, especially when courage comes from doing what's right, not what's easy. You possess all you need to achieve success. Believe.



CAPRICORN (Dec 22 – Jan 20)

VERY few of us are completely objective. Even when we think we're being wholly rational, we're denying an emotional need.

The Cosmic Boomerang encourages you to have more faith in your creativity. Rather than showing you what you're doing 'wrong', this cosmic event invites you to apply your resources in different ways.

What are you instinctively drawn to explore? What have you ignored despite an unexplained itch to try?

You possess an innovative imagination. When issues from the past reappear, they offer opportunities to engage with more passion and purpose. You're gaining inner strength that will guide you to a brighter future.



AQUARIUS (Jan 21 – Feb 19)

CHILDREN are adaptable. As we grow older, we become set in our ways. The Cosmic Boomerang will challenge you to step out of your comfort zone. This rare alignment points towards possibilities that will shake you up and rattle your sense of security, but that deserve to be explored.

You instinctively know change is needed. But you fear that the progress you've already made might get lost in the process. Fear not.

As Jupiter moves between your modern and traditional ruling planets, you can hold on to your core principles and investigate new pathways.

Embrace the opportunities. With a positive mindset you can follow them to happiness.



PISCES (Feb 20 – March 20)

PRESIDENTS, pop stars and celebrities urge us to follow our dreams. But there's a danger in holding on to idealised visions of success; they can stifle our ability to enjoy what we already have. And blind us to seeing new possibilities.

The Cosmic Boomerang brings a moment of clarity.

It's time to consider whether persevering with something or someone that you like the idea of (but never makes you happy) is worth the sacrifice.

A new approach will lead to greater fulfilment. Exploring new ideas doesn't mean giving up. It takes courage, and that always brings rewards.

Are you ready to embark on a journey that leads to a more enlightened you? I hope so!

Picture: UNIVERSAL IMAGES GROUP

The Funeral Of Her Majesty The Queen

Full coverage by the People's Channel of this momentous day begins Monday at 6am with Eamonn Holmes, Isabel Webster, Nigel Farage and Stephen Dixon.

Then at 10am join Alastair Stewart, Anne Diamond and David Starkey for the State Funeral.

All of us at GB News join the nation in paying our respects.

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Top fun: Parachuting Tom Cruise makes a smooth touchdown in a Cumbrian field

Tom's Mission Impossible

Superstar's filming is brought to a halt... by a flock of sheep

BY HOOK or by crook, Tom Cruise always manages to overcome any obstacle as Ethan Hunt in the Mission: Impossible films.

But the Hollywood star may have felt sheepish when a flock halted production of a new instalment being filmed in the Lake District.

Cruise and the crew were forced to take a break on the set of Mission: Impossible – Dead Reckoning, after the sheep headed towards the filming area in Cumbria.

According to reports, the sheep began eating grass close to a marquee producers had set up. Cruise, 60, was seen smiling at the surprise visit and according to US news broadcaster Fox News he made space for the ani-

By **Paul Revoir**
Media Editor

mals to pass through. His character in the hit spy film franchise is an agent for the Impossible Missions Force (IMF).

The actor, who is famed for doing his own hair-raising stunts, was also seen parachuting from a helicopter as he filmed scenes for the blockbuster, part one of which is due for release next summer.

He wore a black jumpsuit while attached to a royal blue parachute and performed a series of twists and turns before making a smooth touchdown on the grassy fields.



Flockbuster: Sheep bring a halt to filming in Lake District

Do the weekly shop as a couple and you'll buy more junk food

By **Sophie Freeman**

IF you're trying to cut calories and happen to be heading for the supermarket this weekend, you might want to leave your other half at home, research suggests.

Couples who shop together buy more – especially unhealthy products such as biscuits and crisps – than those who shop alone, the study found.

The researchers said couples act as 'accomplices' when they shop together rather than 'minders'.

'Everyone has weaknesses, for example, for sweets or a burger and fries,' said Professor Robert

Music can help cut down comfort eating

AFTER a stressful day, the temptation of the snack cupboard can prove overwhelming.

But listening to music could help people resist comfort eating, a study of 119 women found.

Researchers stressed volunteers out by giving them five minutes to solve 18 anagrams – six of which were impossible. Then they gave them snacks including sweets, cookies, crisps, popcorn and chocolate. People listening to a comforting

song, such as Fix You by Coldplay, consumed 35 per cent less than those eating in silence.

Dr Helen Coulthard, a co-author of the research from De Montfort University, said: 'We are replacing the comfort of food with the comfort of music.' Experts believe music boosts levels of the rewarding brain chemicals serotonin and dopamine, which may explain why it provides enough of a boost to reduce comfort eating.

Wilken, who led the study. 'The accomplice effect means that when you go shopping together, you give each other a kind of "permission" to consume so-called

vice products. As a result, the shared shopping basket contains more vice products.'

Researchers in Germany approached couples shopping

together at a Christmas market. Half the 75 couples were randomly seated separately from their partner, so that they made decisions individually, while the other

couples were seated together, making decisions jointly.

They were shown an online shop featuring 44 items including 'vice' foods such as biscuits and Christmas stollen and 'virtue' foods such as fruit. They were told to shop for joint consumption.

When shopping alone, they bought an average of eight products. Shopping together, they opted for 20, spending an extra £41, on average. Of the 12 extra products, nine were 'vice' items – totalling £37 of the extra £41.

'These findings clearly support an accomplice effect,' said Professor Wilken, of the ESCP Business School Berlin, whose study was published in the Journal of Retailing and Consumer Services.

Obsessed with colonialism and race — and, of course, Brexit — barely a day goes by without the painfully liberal New York Times unleashing a transatlantic fusillade. They were so wildly inaccurate, they were funny — until this week when they sank to a contemptible low

by Guy
Adams

Is America's most prestigious paper launching its deranged attacks on Britain and the Queen to make money from China?

BACK in 1997, an American journalist named Joseph Kahn could be found in Hong Kong covering Britain's handover of its former colony to the People's Republic of China.

Kahn's account of the post-imperial pomp and circumstance, published in the Wall Street Journal, was a curiously partisan piece of journalism.

On one hand, Kahn managed to be weirdly sympathetic to the communist dictatorship taking over this hitherto-vibrant democracy, at times parroting lines that might have been pinched from its propaganda manual.

'An ascendant China regained sovereignty over this skyscraper-stacked business colossus with flag-festooned ceremonies amid fireworks, cannon salutes and torrential downpours,' began his dispatch, before noting that 'China's rising status in the world was made clear at the ceremonies'.

On the other hand, Kahn's article seemed curiously hostile to the departing Brits, or at least to the manner in which America's oldest ally chose to say goodbye.

'A heavy downpour drenched guests, just as

'It has form making questionable points about Britain'

a military band struck up the first chords of God Save The Queen, and Prince Charles's speech was drowned out,' it read. 'A light rain kept up until Her Majesty's Yacht Britannia slipped out of Hong Kong's harbour... shortly after midnight.'

This reporting was not entirely accurate: the 'downpour' evident in surviving footage had actually started long before the National Anthem was played, while the now-King's speech appears to have been perfectly audible to the crowds who gathered to watch him.

But those minor issues don't seem to have prevented the article's ambitious — if rather Anglophobic — young author from subsequently climbing the greasy pole of his profession.

Today, Joseph Kahn is executive editor of the New York Times, America's most famous newspaper. And in the 25 years that have passed since the handover of Hong Kong, he remains mustard keen on pouring scorn in the general direction of Britain, and its Royal Family.

How else can we explain the insensitive and at times grotesque manner in which the 'Old Grey Lady' — a nickname Kahn's Left-leaning paper owes to its dreary layout and headlines — has chosen to mark the death of the Queen?

The New York Times kicked off its coverage — little more than two hours after the monarch's death had been announced — with a lengthy comment piece by Harvard professor Maya Jasanoff, urging readers to 'mourn the Queen, not her empire'.

We should not 'romanticise her era,' the piece claimed, because the Queen allegedly 'helped obscure a bloody history of decolonisation whose proportions

and legacies have yet to be adequately acknowledged'.

Her Majesty was also guilty of having 'had a personal relationship with Winston Churchill' [a man Jasanoff accused of 'retrograde imperialism'], as well as being 'a white face on all the coins, notes and stamps circulating in a rapidly diversifying nation'.

In other words, according to this expert in grievance studies, Britain's monarch was somehow racist. Despite the fact that she (among other things) helped to found the Commonwealth, advocated for a tougher line on apartheid South Africa and happily presided over an era in which Britain became the most multi-cultural nation in Europe.

Particularly vile, given the article's timing, was a passage in which Jasanoff chose to describe the assassination of the Queen's cousin Lord Mountbatten by the IRA as 'karmic' (defined by the Oxford English Dictionary as 'good or bad luck, especially as a result of one's own actions').

The attack in question, when a bomb was detonated on the family's fishing boat in 1979, also resulted in the death of Mountbatten's 14-year-old grandson

Nicholas Knatchbull, along with a 15-year-old deckhand, Paul Maxwell. Lady Doreen Brabourne, 83, the mother-in-law of Mountbatten's eldest daughter, died the next day.

Quite why any right-thinking person would consider that 'karmic' is anyone's guess. But as Norman Tebbit, whose late wife was paralysed by the IRA a few years later, said this week: 'The New York Times is now well-known for being a very anti-British newspaper. This is not a surprise but feels particularly egregious in the wake of the Queen's death. It's the sort of scum that rises to the top of dirty water.'

Jasanoff wasn't the only writer given space on the hallowed comment pages of the New York Times to attack the monarchy via the predictable prism of race.

A couple of days later, it was the turn of novelist Hari Kunzru. The 'white queen', he wrote, 'spent a

lifetime smiling and waving at cheering native people around the world, a sort of living ghost of a system of rapacious and bloodthirsty extraction'.

He added: 'Like many other people around the world whose families fought the British Empire, I reject its mythology of benevolence and enlightenment, and find the royal demand for deference repugnant.'

Mr Kunzru is, of course, entitled to his view. But the strikingly multi-ethnic crowds queuing to pay their respects to Her Majesty as she lies in state this weekend suggest that, outside the Left-wing intelligentsia, not everyone holds such sour, if fashionable, opinions.

Following this increasingly unhinged anti-royal commentary, a number of people claiming to be subscribers have taken to social media in recent days to say they will cancel their subscriptions to the paper. Having poured scorn on

the late Queen, Kahn's New York Times then decided the time was right to go on the offensive against Britain's new King. On Tuesday, it published an article about Charles's finances that called the monarch 'disconnected' for enjoying tax privileges while the British public is 'reliant on food banks'.

According to the authors — one of whom, Euan Ward, gleefully tweeted a video of a handful of Scottish protesters booing God Save The King in Scotland last week — the King has 'spent half a century turning his royal estate into a billion-dollar portfolio and one of the most lucrative money-makers in the royal family business'.

It added: 'His lifestyle of palaces and polo has long fuelled accusations that he is out of touch with ordinary people. And he has at times been the unwitting symbol of that disconnect.'

The shock news that a British monarch is quite rich was nothing, however, next to the next New York Times 'scoop', published some 24 hours later. It revealed, if that is the correct word, that the forthcoming State Funeral will be paid for by... the British State. 'Queen Elizabeth II's funeral,

'Going to great lengths to portray us as a poverty-stricken backwater'

SHOELESS EDITOR'S BIZARRE PHOTO SHOOT... WITH CHINESE MUG

2019, it recruited a little-known novelist to write a piece titled 'Britain is drowning itself in nostalgia'. The author claimed the country was 'poisoned' with 'colonial arrogance' and 'dreamy jingoism'. And around the same time, an Irish woman living in London was given space to explain why: 'I Didn't Hate the English — Until Now.'

'If you put any other nationality in that headline, there would be an outcry,' said the Henry Jackson Society, in response to this frankly xenophobic headline.

There are times when the newspaper's coverage is so absurd as to verge on the comical. Five years ago, a New York Times travel writer complained that London's restaurant cuisine revolved until very recently around boiled mutton and porridge. He also spoke of having eaten in 'Mayfield' when he meant Mayfair.

And in 2018 a writer used a brief trip to the town of Prescot in Lancashire to argue that Britain was an austerity-ridden wasteland, only for residents of the town to promptly highlight a string of basic inaccuracies in his article, including false claims it no longer had a police station, library or museum (it boasted all three).

In a surreal response, the author conceded that his facts may be wrong, but claimed that didn't matter because his 'perception' of the 'village' [sic] was correct.

Comic as this may be, there is a serious side to the anti-British agenda of the New York Times. It continues to be read by America's elite — and, despite its increasingly wonky reputation for accuracy, it carries some heft overseas.

Famously, the New York Times's President and CEO from 2012-20 and former BBC director-general, Mark Thompson, once dubbed Brexit an 'ugly shambles' and even compared the tactics of the Vote Leave campaign to Nazi propagandist Joseph Goebbels.

Joseph Kahn knows all this only too well. For his title's surreal hostility to the UK is widely believed to be motivated by commercial pressures.

The title boasts around eight million paying subscribers to its website, but wants to add around two million more outside the U.S. in the coming years. According to insiders, one way to do this is to sweep up readers in countries such as China, where there are around 1.4 billion potential readers and attacks on Western powers (and the principles of monarchy or even democracy) are well received.

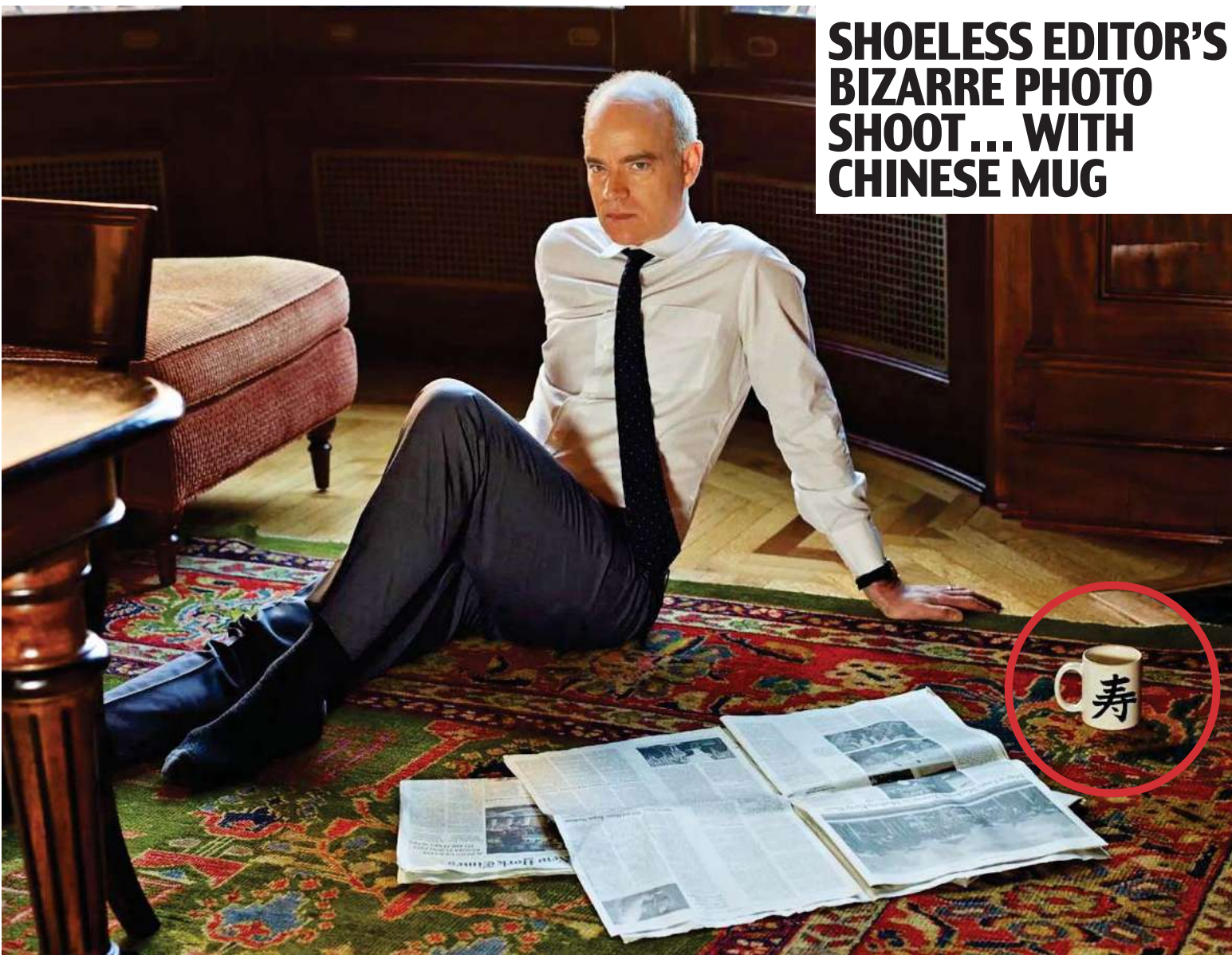
Mr Kahn is, of course, something of an expert on this front. As his 1997 dispatch makes clear, he was for years a China correspondent for the Wall Street Journal. More recently, after taking the editorship of the New York Times, he chose to take part in a shoot organised by the 'offbeat' photographer Chris Buck, in which the newspaperman posed with a mug bearing a Chinese symbol on it.

This symbolism was, at the time, somewhat overshadowed by mockery directed at Kahn's bizarre decision to remove his shoes and sit on his office carpet for the portrait photo, grimacing in a manner some compared to a middle-aged divorcee's first online dating photograph.

Today, under his stewardship, the New York Times publishes a Chinese language edition, as well as a luxury goods magazine.

A second way to drum up subscribers is to target new readers in countries such as the UK. And this is where articles portraying Britain as a dystopian hellhole come in handy. According to insiders, the firm's tracking data suggests Left-wing articles lambasting Britain are proving effective in persuading a niche audience of wealthy, Remain-supporting metropolitan Brits to sign up and subscribe.

In other words, bashing the Queen can be commercially lucrative. And so this once renowned newspaper of record's vendetta seems set to continue.



Bizarre pose: New York Times boss Joseph Kahn reclines on the floor and, below, the paper's recent online coverage

Picture: CHRIS BUCK

Britain's New Prime Minister Is Still in Thrall to the Empire

The New York Times Mourn the Queen, Not Her Empire



which will involve elaborate processions, vigils and rituals, will be paid for by British taxpayers as they deal with soaring energy prices and high inflation,' the paper breathlessly reported. 'The British government has not yet said how much it will cost.'

Why this was presented as a scandal is unclear. The annual cost of the royals to taxpayers — £102.4million — is, as it happens, less than a quarter of the amount that Americans pay for their President to be transported around the world in Air Force One. And a tenth of the £1.2 billion they pay for 'operations' at the White House, the residence of their country's head of state.

Importantly, the article also made a very basic factual error in its bid to drum up outrage, by claiming that inflation in the UK currently exceeds ten per cent. In fact, the real figure is 9.8 per cent, while the Consumer Prices Index

is up 8.6 per cent. Last night, the paper issued a humiliating apology for the sloppy mistake.

The shambles was nothing if not true to form. For one might argue that the New York Times has become expert in making factually (and morally) questionable generalisations about Britain.

Indeed, recent years have seen America's alleged newspaper of record go to extraordinary lengths to portray our country as some sort of poverty-stricken backwater in terminal decline, forever looking back via rose-tinted glasses at the days of imperial greatness.

When Liz Truss became Prime Minister, an obscure academic from Birkbeck, University of London, named Kojo Koram was given a prime spot on its comment pages to suggest that 'Britain's New Prime Minister is still in thrall to the Empire'.

Illustrated with an oddly-lit black and white photo of Truss looking

like a cross between Darth Vader and Cruella de Vil, it argued that she's somehow the natural heir to Enoch Powell on the grounds that both admired Margaret Thatcher.

'The British Empire may have ended 60 years ago, but the country's next Prime Minister is still in thrall to its legacy,' claimed Koram. 'Under Ms Truss, the broken mentality of Empire rules. And it is everyday Britons who will pay the price.' It must be a different Liz Truss who has appointed the most ethnically diverse Cabinet in British history.

Around the same time, the New York Times used its website to publish a supposedly funny video by 'Jonathan Pie', a reporter played by a Left-wing broadcaster called Tom Walker. Mr Walker had, some days earlier, used Twitter to proclaim that the new Prime Minister was 'a c*** of the higher order'.

His film argued that Truss is 'inheriting a nation falling apart at the seams,' claiming among other things 'you can't get in or out of the country because of airline staff shortages and queues at border control'.

That will be news to the millions of Britons who successfully managed overseas summer holidays. Or as Nile Gardiner, director of Margaret Thatcher Center for Freedom at The Heritage Foundation, put it: 'It's the kind of video [the] Kremlin would put out about Britain. It's a deeply unpleasant propaganda video and bears no relation to reality... that paints a completely false picture of the United Kingdom.'

Mr Walker is something of an expert on Kremlin propaganda: he used to perform as Jonathan Pie on its pet TV channel, Russia Today — now banned in Britain.

August saw the front page of the New York Times international edition carry a piece by Richard Seymour, who argued that Brexit was cutting Britain 'down to size', adding that we were 'economically

stagnant, socially fragmented and politically adrift'.

Mr Seymour was described as 'an editor at Salvage magazine and author of several books about politics and cultures'. What readers weren't told is that Salvage happens to be a Marxist publication with a hammer and sickle on its masthead.

Perhaps inevitably, its most hysterical reporting has centred on Brexit. When the UK finally left the EU in 2020, a writer named Roger Cohen outlandishly claimed that covering the referendum and its aftermath had been more traumatic than being a war correspondent.

'1.4 billion potential readers in China'

He added that Britain leaving the EU signalled 'the end of hope, a moral collapse' and predicted that the country would become 'more insular, more alone, no longer a protagonist in the great miracle of the post-war years'.

Try telling that to the government of Ukraine, which for good reason counts our nation as its most important European ally of the past two years.

A few months earlier, New York Times readers were told that Britons had chosen to 'stock up on supplies, preparing for Brexit' and were 'buying up [sic] pet food, candles and lavatory paper to survive post-Brexit meltdown'.

Its reporter interviewed a couple who had started growing crops in their Cornwall garden and feared that Brexit would be as bad as World War II rationing and 1970s power cuts combined. Earlier, in

Meghan chef can stand the heat



SHE'S surmounted challenges that would make others wilt — cooking for Prince Harry and Meghan's wedding and becoming Britain's first female chef to snaffle three Michelin stars.

Now Clare Smyth pays tribute to Gordon Ramsay, who recruited her in 2002. Describing him as 'great to work with', she says toiling in Ramsay's kitchens was 'survival of the fittest', adding: 'I like that kind of environment'.

Her view contrasts with that of MasterChef judge Anna Haugh who, without naming names, has said: 'It's disgraceful that abusive chefs are excused because the environment is high-paced.'

Eden



Guinness wedding hit by family feud over stylist's death

THERE can be few more dramatic settings for a late summer wedding than Hilles, the enchanting arts and crafts house in Gloucestershire designed more than a century ago by society architect Detmar Blow — and positioned so that those sauntering along its terraced gardens could look out across no fewer than five counties.

But the dreamy views aren't the only thing to have lingered in the memory following the recent nuptials of Tara Guinness and Russian-speaking Old Etonian investment manager James Kelway-Bamber.

Held at Hilles courtesy of Tara's mother — designer Lulu Guinness, queen of the lip-print handbag, who has a cottage on the 1,000 acre estate — it was an intimate occasion, with just 50 guests at dinner following an afternoon reception.

Tara's father, Valentine Guinness, who was divorced from Lulu in 2013, was of course present, as was Tara's uncle Sebastian, who had come over from his home in Spain.

But the restrained scale of the celebration made it easier to identify some surprising absentees. 'At least two prominent members of the Guinness family were missing,' I'm told by a Gloucestershire boulevardier, who adds that the no-shows adore Tara but allegedly couldn't face seeing the man hosting the party, Hilles' owner, grandson — and namesake — of its creator, Detmar Blow.

The absentees included Tara's aunt, the inimitable fashion icon Daphne Guinness, Valentine's half-sister, and an unflinching friend of Detmar Blow's late wife, the eccentric but brilliant stylist Isabella 'Issie' Blow, who spotted and championed the talents of model Sophie Dahl, milliner Philip Treacy and fashion designer Alexander McQueen.

In the last years of her life, Issie, who married Detmar in 1989, was profoundly afflicted by depression. She and Detmar separated in 2003 and, though they were reconciled 18 months later, she took her own life in 2007 aged 48, having made repeated attempts to do so.

Daphne subsequently established the Isabella Blow Foundation, financing it by auctioning part of her own wardrobe at Christie's in 2012.

She declines to comment on her absence from Tara's wedding — as does Lulu. Detmar also remains silent. But a decade ago he admitted: 'I had people snub me at [Issie's] funeral. They loved her very intensely and they wanted someone to blame.'

The scars, it seems, remain raw to this day.

The smart set's talking about... Net-a-party girl DJ Isabella

WHILE Dame Natalie Massenet brought high-end fashion to the masses with the phenomenally successful retail website Net-a-Porter, her daughter Isabella is taking dance music to New York's beau monde.

The 22-year-old alumna of the American School in London has become a DJ, spinning tunes under the moniker BellaBella at Manhattan parties for Louis Vuitton and her stepfather Erik Torstensson's clothing brand, Frame. This week, she joined the all-woman music agency Les Filles.

Isabella, whose father is Natalie's first husband, businessman Arnaud Massenet, is also a model and is going out with Prince Achileas-Andreas of Greece and Denmark. She's not the only musical member of the family: her sister Ava, 16, is a singer-songwriter, performing at Glastonbury 2022.



To keep up to date with the latest royal news and gossip, sign up to my weekly newsletter
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Has magic worn off for Emma and her beau?

TYCOON Sir Philip Green's son, Brandon, cast a spell over Harry Potter star Emma Watson this summer, but is he losing his charm already?

I ask only because the 29-year-old retail heir was nowhere to be seen as Watson, 32, attended a gala dinner in New York.

The actress wore an Alexander McQueen lace dress to The Kering Foundation's Caring For Women Dinner which raises money for firms who support those affected by gender-based violence.

She and Brandon were pictured holding hands in Venice last month, seemingly confirming their long-rumoured romance.

A source previously told this newspaper that he had been 'wooing' the actress, who played Hermione Granger in the Potter film series.



Clarkson has a swell time in the Med with Lisa and billionaire

HE HOSTS Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? but Jeremy Clarkson aspires to a billionaire lifestyle.

The Grand Tour presenter, 62, and his statuesque girlfriend, Lisa Hogan, 53, have been enjoying themselves on a super-yacht off Portofino on Italy's west coast.

Clarkson is pictured on board with Tetra-Pak heir Hans Rausing, 59, who shares a £9.5 billion fortune with his three siblings.

Hans is the grandson of Ruben Rausing, founder of the Swedish food packaging empire, and remains a favourite of the Royal Family. Hans and his first wife, Eva, agreed to donate more than £10 million towards the renovations of King Charles's Scottish stately home, Dumfries House.

After Eva's death from drug abuse at



Pictures: COBRA TEAM / BACKGRID

their £70 million Belgravia mansion in 2012, Hans has worked hard to rehabilitate himself into society.

He's overcome his heroin addiction, married baronet's daughter Julia Delves Broughton, and donated a staggering £39 million to good causes.

Pop idol Cassidy's royal lunch snub

AS THE world pays tribute to the Queen, there was one man who turned her down.

At the height of his fame as a teen idol, actor and singer David Cassidy, then 23, snubbed a lunch invitation in London from the monarch during a British visit in 1973, as he thought it would be too boring.

Writing later in his memoirs, Cassidy ungratefully said: 'The British made a big fuss over the fact that the Queen of England

invited me to lunch. I mean, all these English people are like, "Oh, ah, the Queen." And I'm, like, "The Queen? I don't care about the Queen. The Queen means nothing to me. I think the monarchy is a joke. What makes her the Queen? Well, she waves and she's the richest person in the world. Well, good for her. I'm rich, too. And I'd much rather meet Eric Clapton.'

In the words of one of Cassidy's hits at that time: I Am A Clown.

■ **CHEF** Michel Roux Jr has called for snowboarding to be banned, 22 years after he was badly injured in an accident. 'Snowboards should be buried, never to be seen again,' he declares. 'A snowboarder took me out while I was skiing and broke my leg. I had two operations, a pin put in, a cast for three months. So I don't want anybody to go through that.'



■ **WHEN** Bake Off moved from BBC1 to Channel 4, co-host Sue Perkins said she wasn't 'going with the dough' and quit. Her earnings continue to rise nevertheless. Accounts for Sue Perkins Ltd, which handles her income, reveal she's made her first million. The figures report a £400,000 profit for 2021 and dividends paid at £288,000. It now has a net worth of just under £1.1 million. Perkins, 52, took over from the late Nicholas Parsons as presenter of Radio 4 staple Just A Minute last year.



Earl recalls 'pain' of boarding

CANINGS and other corporal punishments, cold-water dips, bullying by older boys: these are some of the things that went on at Earl Spencer's £30,000-a-year boarding school when he was a pupil in the 1970s.

And now Princess Diana's younger brother — who attended Maidwell Hall, in Northampton, from the age of eight — has declared that he won't send his children away, to avoid the 'pain' that he suffered in his childhood.

'I've not expected any of my

children to board, although two chose to "weekly board" (i.e. board in the week and come home every weekend), in their teens,' says historian Charles Spencer, 58, who has a ten-year-old daughter with his third wife, Karen. 'Best to break the chain and the pain.'

He says he was 'dreading the enforced move from home' when this photograph, left, was taken by his father.

Lord Spencer has six older children with his previous wives.



Best friends: Gigi, left, is close to Blake Lively



Another Leo ex: Gigi with model Nina Agdal

Will DiCaprio's exes warn his supermodel new squeeze (a shockingly ancient 27) to run a mile? ...because, bad news for Leo, six of them are HER best friends!

THE news that actor Leonardo DiCaprio, 47 years old and a serial dater of young bikini models, is dallying with 27-year-old Gigi Hadid has raised eyebrows in Hollywood. After all, it's rare for the star to break 'Leo's Law' — and date a woman over the age of 25.

The pair were pictured for the first time at a Fashion Week party in New York, deep in conversation.

DiCaprio, wearing a peaked cap, appeared to be holding hands with the model who is 20 years his junior. Word is that they are 'dating' but 'keeping it casual'.

So well known are DiCaprio's dating preferences, that earlier this week he was the butt of a joke at the Emmy awards with actor Kenan Thompson saying on stage: 'Twenty-six is a weird age in Hollywood. Young enough to play a High School student, but too old to date Leonardo DiCaprio.'

It's true that over the past two decades one young model has succeeded another in a never-ending model-merry-go-round.

But has an Oscar-winning star ever been so openly, and personally, derided?

And while model Gigi ponders whether their 'fun' and 'casual' dating might turn into a more serious romance, in truth she doesn't need to listen to the chatter of the wider world to learn about her beau — as she can rely on plenty of advice from closer to home. And how well-informed it will be.

For, in a delicious twist, it turns out that Gigi is friends with no fewer than SIX of DiCaprio's former girlfriends (all of them also models, of course).

They are Gisele Bündchen, Blake Lively, Erin Heatherton, Toni Garrn,

by Alison Boshoff

Kelly Rohrbach and Nina Agdal, and they dated DiCaprio between 1999 and 2017. Sadly for DiCaprio, it's hard to imagine that any of his exes will counsel Gigi that life as Leo's plus one is much fun.

A source in the modelling world said: 'He fishes in a small pond and the point was reached some time ago when all the models know him, and all the models have dated him. I would say that the situation is not really to his advantage.'

Gigi Hadid's best friend among the tribe of his exes is actress and model Blake Lively — who has been a face of Dior and L'Oréal.

She and Gigi have been close since around 2014, when both

were a part of singer Taylor Swift's so-called girl squad.

A deep friendship has developed, and the pair have been seen hanging out at fashion shows, at the Met Gala Ball and at concerts and dinners in New York.

Lively, who is married to actor Ryan Reynolds and has just announced that she is pregnant with their fourth child, has given Gigi advice on raising daughter Khai, two.

Khai is Gigi's child by former One Direction star Zayn Malik, from whom she split in October last year.

Both Gigi and Blake spoke about their bond in a recent interview with Vogue magazine. Blake said: 'I told her you have to do what works for you. Gigi has a really special relationship with her fans, and I love how open she is on social

media. I love seeing into her world... I'm grateful for what she shares but also understand whatever boundaries she chooses to set.'

Last year, Blake wrote two posts on Instagram to celebrate her friend's birthday, sharing a video

'He had an entourage 20 women deep'

clip of Gigi dancing with the fond caption: 'Too bad you're just super hot and no fun at all.'

She also shared a picture of

herself with Gigi and her husband curled up on a couch with the caption: 'I think you and I make a much better couple.'

Blake, 35, dated DiCaprio for five months between May 2010 and October 2011. They had met some time previously, when Blake was being considered for a role in *The Great Gatsby*, and were seen together at Disneyland, in Monte Carlo, in New York and in Sydney.

They appeared blissfully happy but broke up abruptly after Blake visited DiCaprio in Australia, where he was filming *Gatsby*.

Reports suggest that he cut her loose unexpectedly, and that she was heartbroken for a time.

He was then linked with model Madalina Ghenea whom he also met while in Australia.

Another former Leo love is blonde German model Toni Garrn.



Pictures: GC IMAGES/GETTY



Tangled web: Gigi Hadid and, above, Leo with Gisele Bündchen

They were an item in 2013 and 2014, travelling to Cannes and Bora Bora — and seen kissing and cuddling in 2017, too, when he was ‘between models’ again.

Why did the romance end? Well, it all went south a few days after DiCaprio was spotted leaving the Art Basel show in Miami sporting a beard and a man bun and ‘with an entourage 20 women deep’.

It’s doubtful, then, that Toni will advise Gigi to go for it. Toni has known Gigi for years, indeed they

‘Gigi thinks he is a really cool guy’

became friends in 2014 at around the time that Toni first broke up with DiCaprio.

Spotted chatting together at the front row of a fashion show in 2015, Gigi was one of Toni’s biggest supporters when she launched a charity in 2016, aiming to support women and girls in Africa.

The Toni Garrn Foundation holds an annual ‘Supermodel Flea Market’ and Gigi has offered up to 100 garments a year for it. Both women are also Victoria’s Secret Angels,

although Toni dropped out of the shows the year before Gigi put the famous wings on, saying that she was asked every year to lose more weight and she had simply found the demands impossible.

Toni found herself swiftly replaced in Leo’s affections by blonde swimsuit model Kelly Rohrbach (Kelly and Gigi also know each other, naturally).

Perhaps the most famous former flame is supermodel Gisele Bündchen. They got together in 1999, when she was only 18. DiCaprio apparently saw her on a catwalk and called her agency to get her phone number. Their six-year relationship has been his longest to date, with the couple splitting up in 2005.

However before the year was out he was with model Bar Rafaeli who, in looks, could be Gisele’s younger sister.

It must have been wounding. Gisele said in an interview that she wished DiCaprio well but it ended because she wanted to do ‘serious soul searching’ and he didn’t.

Although 15 years her senior, Gisele has been something of a mentor for Gigi, who was among those invited by Chanel to celebrate Gisele becoming the face of Chanel No 5 perfume in 2014.

By the time the two women were photographed together again four years later at the Met Gala Ball — both guests of Versace — they were friends and on close terms.

When Gisele made remarks in an

interview about how she couldn’t live her life like the younger generation of Insta models — which was perceived as a dig — she was quick to apologise to all of them.

The other ‘Leo’ models whom Gigi knows are friends through work — via advertising campaigns including one for Sports Illustrated.

Does it matter that he only dates models, and that they are all known to each other?

So far, it’s not put Gigi off. A source says: ‘Gigi and Leo have hung out multiple times and are into each other. Gigi thinks he’s a really cool guy.’

They have known each other socially for years — on the modelling party circuit — and the story is that they first ‘hung out’ at a party when private members’ club The Ned opened in New York in July. By then DiCaprio’s four-year relationship with model Camila Morrone was over.

Since that party he’s apparently been pursuing Gigi — being spotted with her in The Ned again in August.

The daughter of wealthy property developer Mohamed and super-ambitious Dutch model Yolanda, Gigi was raised to become a model and was pushed to diet and network her way to the top by her mother, who would tell her off for eating birthday cake,

‘She will be looking before she leaps’

and discouraged an enthusiasm for basketball lest it lead to Gigi looking less feminine.

A source says: ‘Gigi is still fresh out of a very bad break up [with Zayn Malik] plus Leo has a reputation. We’ll see. But she’s a smart girl and will be looking before she leaps.’

And you have to wonder what view will be taken by Gigi Hadid’s formidable mother who has been married and divorced twice herself.

Calling herself ‘mama bear’, she is fully involved in the lives of daughters Gigi and Bella and sources indicate that Yolanda will be the gatekeeper if Gigi decides that the fling is going to mature into a true romance.

Her influence and presence in Gigi’s life was widely said to be what sparked the confrontation which ended her romance with Malik when daughter Khai was only one year old.

In October 2021 Yolanda dropped into the guest cottage at her farm where Malik was living with Gigi and their daughter without giving notice. In a confrontation which followed, Malik allegedly pushed Yolanda against a chest of drawers and shouted profanities.

He was charged with four counts of harassment, pleading guilty to one and no contest to the other three. He was subsequently sentenced to 360 days of community service, required to take anger management classes and to attend an anti-domestic violence programme.

He and Gigi separated shortly after the incident, but they have continued to raise their daughter together, and Malik even visits her and Khai at her Pennsylvania home.

Malik said in a statement that he had not struck Yolanda, but was choosing not to fight the charges in order to protect his daughter from the publicity which a court case would bring.

A friend in the modelling world says: ‘Gigi is a very mature 27. She spent years looking after Yolanda when she was ill with Lyme disease, and would drive her to hospital when she had flare-ups. Then she’s dealt with a lot with Zayn, and, of course, she is a mum too.’

‘It wouldn’t surprise me if she was actually too grown up for Leo.’

Now there’s a thought.

By **Harriet Line**
Chief Political Correspondent

THE national insurance hike could be reversed as soon as November, putting more money in people's pay packets, the Chancellor will announce next week.

Kwasi Kwarteng will make an emergency tax-cutting 'mini Budget' next Friday to deliver on Liz Truss's leadership campaign pledges.

With households facing soaring bills amid the cost of living crisis, Mr Kwarteng will announce measures to help them keep more of what they earn.

Miss Truss pledged during the Tory leadership campaign to use the Budget to 'immediately tackle the cost of living crisis by cutting taxes, reversing the rise on national insurance and suspending the green levy on energy bills'.

The Daily Mail understands the national insurance rise could be reversed as soon as November – despite initial concerns that it

Pay packet boost as NI hike axed 'by November'

could take far longer because of payroll complications.

Since April, workers and employers have been paying an extra 1.25p in the pound for national insurance under the Government's plan to fund the NHS and social care.

Mr Kwarteng will also use his

fiscal statement to confirm that next year's planned hike in corporation tax will not go ahead.

And he could push ahead with plans for City deregulation, having told bank chiefs he wants a 'Big Bang 2.0' – referring to Margaret Thatcher's sudden deregulation of financial markets – to

make London the capital of global finance again.

Earlier this week, Treasury sources confirmed Mr Kwarteng was considering scrapping the cap on bankers' bonuses to make the City of London more globally competitive.

The mini Budget will mark a major change in approach from Boris Johnson's administration, with a shift to cutting taxes to drive growth. A separate announcement on an energy package for business is also expected next week.

It comes after the Government announced an unprecedented multi-billion-pound package to tackle sky-high energy bills and ease



Mini Budget: Kwasi Kwarteng

said: 'I'm sure they will do the pledged tax cuts and then they've got to put some numbers and legislative flesh on the bones of the energy package.'

'And they've got to show how growth is actually fed through – because I think the choice at the moment is you either have a rising deficit this year and next because of the measures you take to stimulate the economy, or you have an even bigger rising deficit because you don't take measures to stimulate the economy and you go into recession.'

'If you have a long and deep recession, the sort of Sunak policy, all the past evidence shows you end up with a bigger deficit because revenues collapse.'

Parliament is suspended while the country is in mourning following the death of the Queen, and Miss Truss is expected to fly to New York for the UN General Assembly following the monarch's funeral on Monday.

MPs had been due to break for conference season on September 22, but it will be delayed by a day to allow for the Budget.

'Stimulate the economy'

the cost of living crisis, with a focus on capping prices and boosting domestic energy supplies.

Under the 'energy price guarantee', bills for the average household will go no higher than £2,500 at any point over the next two years.

It will save a typical home around £1,000 from October 1, when the current consumer price cap had been set to soar.

Businesses were promised similar levels of support, but the details have not yet been announced.

Last night Conservative MPs urged the Government to 'get on with' slashing taxes.

Tory grandee Sir John Redwood

JASMINE BIRTLES IS AWAY

Rail strikes targeted to hit Tory conference

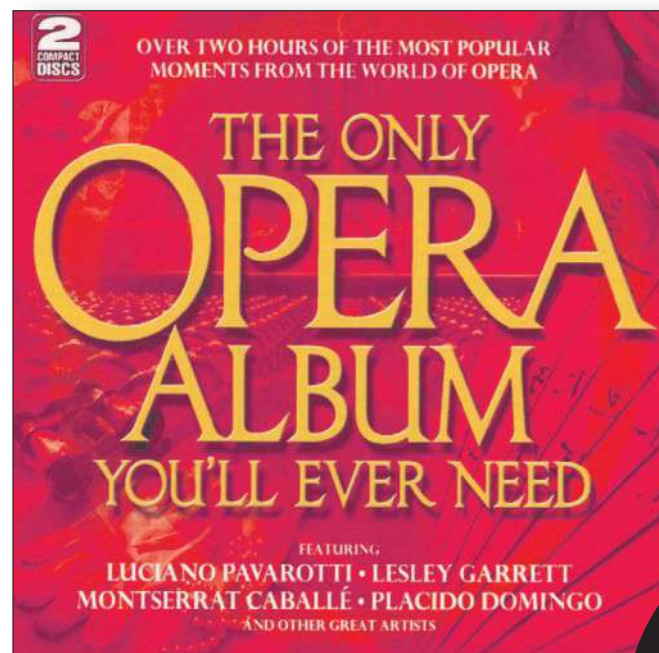
RAIL barons have been branded 'utterly disrespectful' after plotting strike action as the Queen lies in state.

Train drivers will walk out on October 1 and October 5 – causing travel chaos at high-profile events including the Conservative Party conference in Birmingham and the London Marathon.

Aslef, which represents the drivers, has been criticised for its timing after it quietly sent letters to 12 rail companies yesterday, notifying them of the walkouts. Unions are bound by law to give two weeks' notice of any industrial action.

A rail industry source said: 'It is utterly disrespectful. This is a time when the entire rail family is working hard to support the hundreds of thousands of people who wish to pay their respects to the Queen.'

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5. La Wally, Act I: Ebben?... Ne andrò lontana
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7. La bohème, Act I: O soave fanciulla
8. Rusalka, Op. 114, B 203: Mesicku na nebi hlubokém (Song of the Moon)
9. L'elisir d'amore, Act II: Una furtiva lagrima
10. Carmen, Act I: L'amour est un oiseau rebelle
11. The Barber of Seville, Act I:

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12. Lakmé: The Flower Duet
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6. The Marriage of Figaro: Voi che sapete

7. Pagliacci, Act I: Recitar! Mentre

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8. Norma: Casta diva
9. Die Zauberflöte, K 620, Act II: Der Hölle Rache
10. Rigoletto, Act IV: La donna è mobile
11. Orfeo ed Euridice: Che farò senza Euridice?
12. The Pearl Fishers, Act I: Au fond du temple saint
13. Der Ring, Die Walküre: Die Walküren
14. The Marriage of Figaro: Non più andrai
15. Aida, Act I, Scene 1: Romanza – Se quel guerrier io fossi!... Celeste Aida
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Dr Michael MOSLEY

HEALTH ++ DIET ++ HAPPINESS

YOU'VE probably heard the claim that if you want to lose weight you should 'breakfast like a king, lunch like a prince, and dine like a pauper'.

The suggestion is that by doing this, you will burn more calories and improve your metabolic health (i.e. keep your blood sugar levels and blood cholesterol in a healthy range).

It certainly makes sense to me because eating this way fits in better with our bodies' natural daily rhythms, which are driven in large part by our internal body clocks.

In other words, you need food first thing to power you through the morning, and you don't want to be filling your belly at night when your body is preparing for sleep.

But a recent study, published in the journal *Cell Metabolism*, found that, to much surprise, when you eat doesn't seem to make much difference to how many calories you burn or how well your body processes the sugar and fat in the meal you have just eaten.

Researchers from the University of Aberdeen recruited 30 healthy, overweight men and women and asked them to follow a diet where they would spend four weeks eating most of their calories in the morning or the evening, and then switching over.

The meals, which were provided by the scientists, were high in protein and relatively low in carbs (30 per cent of their calories came from protein, 35 per cent from carbs and 35 per cent, fat).

AS THEY were on a tightly controlled high-protein diet, the volunteers lost a decent amount of weight (3.3kg, around half a stone on average) — at least in part because eating more protein keeps you fuller by reducing levels of the hunger hormone, ghrelin.

But they lost just as much, just as fast, whether they were eating a big breakfast or a big dinner. There was also no difference when it came to the impact on their blood sugar levels, which improved just as much whichever diet they were on.

The only real difference was that when they ate a large breakfast, they felt less hungry during the day than when they ate a slap-up dinner.

I was really surprised by these findings because a slew of previous studies has found that when you eat makes a big difference.

For example, one study carried

out in 2013 by Tel Aviv University in Israel, involving 93 overweight women with raised blood sugar levels, found that those eating a big breakfast lost nearly 2.5 times more weight (an average of 8.7kg or 19lb) than those who ate a big dinner (an average of 3.6kg or 8lb).

The women were asked to stick to a low-calorie diet where they either ate most of their food in the morning or the evening.

Those in the big breakfast group had significantly lower levels of ghrelin, were less hungry and reported less desire to snack later in the day than those in the big dinner group.

And that could help explain the difference between the findings of

Why you SHOULD have a big breakfast and a small dinner

Eating your biggest meal early in the day does matter — particularly if you want to lose weight



I ALWAYS enjoyed the sight of Boris Johnson at the Despatch Box, hair on end, waving his hands theatrically, but I also wondered whether his unkempt hair was just part of a carefully cultivated image.

Well it turns out that 'uncombed hair syndrome', really is a thing. It's a genetic disorder and those affected typically have blond or silvery hair that grows out from the scalp in different directions and just won't lie flat.

Scientists at the University of Bonn in Germany identified some of the genes involved and hope to develop a blood test to spot affected children.

It has no other side-effects and typically youngsters grow out of it by the age of 12.



would expect. But after eating the same meal in the evening those levels shot up and then stayed up for several hours.

That is partly because after eating all that fatty, sugary food in the morning I went for a brisk walk, which helped burn off some of those calories, which didn't happen in the evening.

But it is also the case that when we eat late at night our body isn't as good at releasing the hormone insulin, and it's insulin's job to help your cells take up glucose.

So eating late at night puts you at greater risk of type 2 diabetes.

What I conclude from all this is that the adage 'breakfast like a king, lunch like a prince, and dine like a pauper' still stands and that paying attention to when you eat, as well as what you eat, can play an important role in improving your health.

But don't expect miracles and be aware that there is no single diet that will suit everyone.

I personally find the best way to keep the weight off is to have a protein-rich breakfast (my favourites include scrambled eggs and smoked salmon or kippers) and avoid evening snacking, particularly the sort that is done mindlessly, late at night, in front of the television.

Picture: SHUTTERSTOCK/STOLYEVYCH YULIYA

Anti-cancer benefit of exercise • What on-screen doctors will always miss

CANCER is normally seen as a disease of old age, but new research by Brigham and Women's Hospital in the U.S. has identified a dramatic rise globally in cancers of the breast, colon, oesophagus, kidney, liver and pancreas in the under-50s.

This trend began in 1990 and shows no sign of stopping. The researchers believe that sleep deprivation, increasingly sedentary lifestyles and a diet of ultra-processed foods, which in



turn leads to obesity, are some of the reasons for this surge.

The benefits of being more active were illustrated by a recent University of Bristol study, involving more than 131,000 women. It showed that doing some form of vigorous activity three or more days a week was associated with a 38 per cent lower risk of developing breast cancer.

Exercise protects by, among other things, reducing chronic inflammation and strengthening our immune system.

WHEN was the last time you saw a doctor, face-to-face? One of the most dramatic changes in the NHS since the onset of Covid has been an increasing reliance on the use of telemedicine.

A report last year found that in many parts of England fewer than half of patients now get face-to-face appointments, with the rest having to speak to their GPs via telephone or video calls.

Like it or loathe it, we are going to be seeing even more of telemedicine, not least because it means doctors can see more patients in less time. But how accurate is it?

In a recent study, researchers at the Mayo Clinic in the U.S. analysed the results of more than 97,000 telemedicine appointments, comparing the

accuracy of these diagnoses with a follow-up in-person appointment. Though the overall accuracy of the telemedicine diagnosis was 87 per cent, it very much depended on what the problem was.

When it was an ear, nose or throat problem, the doctors working remotely got it right only 65 per cent of the time. With cancer or mental illness, however, they were right 97 per cent of the time. Specialists were also more likely to reach a correct diagnosis remotely than GPs.

Apart from this disparity in diagnosis, I fear an over-reliance on telemedicine will weaken doctor-patient relationships, which play a big part in the successful outcome of any consultation.



Shootout in a playground between migrant gangs that reveals why Sweden's turning its back on liberalism

from
Sue Reid

IN STOCKHOLM

UNDER a bright street light, Kristian Lindmark sat with his hand outstretched, begging for krona from evening diners merrily leaving restaurants on Vasagatan, a smart avenue in Sweden's capital, Stockholm.

Beside him, Kristian had a plastic bag containing his few possessions: a spare pair of socks, some clean boxer shorts and a half-empty pack of cigarettes.

When I bought him a coffee from a nearby five-star hotel last weekend, he clutched the polystyrene cup to keep his hands warm in the bitter autumn evening.

'The government does not help Swedes in their own country,' he said in a matter-of-fact tone. 'Instead, they give state money and warm homes to foreign people who come to live here.'

Fifty-two-year-old Kristian — from Uppsala, a cathedral town 35 minutes by train from Stockholm — lost his job as a butcher after a divorce. He is homeless, like hundreds of his fellow countrymen also begging on the capital's streets.

Last Sunday, he cast his vote in a national election in this country, renowned worldwide for its generous welfare state, multiculturalism and open-door policy for refugees.

Sweden's liberal dream was pioneered by the nation's Social Democratic movement, whose parties have topped national polls ever since the end of World War I.

But this latest election has seen a convulsive change. Swedish voters supported an alliance of four Right-wing parties — including one, named the Sweden Democrats, which stands accused of historical links to neo-Nazism.

Final poll results showed on

'The violent crimes are getting worse'

Thursday that the Right-wing bloc has now chosen the new prime minister, elbowing aside the ruling Social Democrats.

To the shock of liberals in Sweden and across the world, the voters backed tougher immigration controls, foreign criminal deportations and stiffer punishments for the rising number of young men who have been plaguing their once-peaceful country with shootings and drug-dealing.

'The violent crimes are getting worse,' says Torsten Elofsson, a former Swedish police chief and candidate for the Christian Democrats, a party in the new Right-wing alliance. 'These used to happen in Stockholm and other big cities such as Malmö and Gothenburg. Now they have spread to small towns everywhere.'

In just a decade, Sweden has gone from having one of the lowest rates of fatal shootings in Europe to the highest, according to the Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention. This year is on track to break records, with 44 gun deaths by mid-August, close to the highest annual tally of 47 in 2020.

It was against this troubling backdrop that the election, in which the anti-immigration Sweden Democrat party seized an astonishing one vote in five, took place.

Late last month, with election-eering under way, there was a shootout by masked youths at a children's playground in Eskilstuna, a pretty manufactur-

ing town an hour-and-a-half's drive from Stockholm that is home to a Volvo car-parts factory.

Two rival gangs, one from the town's Arby suburb, the other from a suburb a mile away, were involved and a five-year-old boy was hit by a bullet as he played with other children at seven in the evening.

The boy — from a Syrian family with a flat in state-housing blocks overlooking the tree-lined playground — was terrified, hiding his head in his hands close to a climbing frame when the firing started, before he was wounded in the stomach.

A mother in her 20s was hit, too, as she sat with her four-year-old girl. She was from elsewhere in Sweden, visiting her Iraqi Kurd relatives in Arby, and ran for safety before collapsing on the grass, blood spreading over her blue jeans after she had been shot in the hip.

The crossfire between the gangs, standing on opposite sides of the playground, lasted for nearly three minutes. Bullets whizzed past tables where families were enjoying picnics, before the shooters melted away into the trees and escaped. A police investigation was continuing last week.

When the Mail visited the playground after the shooting, worried mothers showed us bloodstains still marking the ground near a children's roundabout.

A 38-year-old woman called Fatima, who has five girls and arrived in Sweden as a refugee from Somaliland 16 years ago, said: 'Some of the children were on the trampoline and had taken off their sandals. They ran away barefoot to escape the shots.'

Fatima, a care worker, is so afraid for her children that she plans to leave the housing block in Arby. 'It is more dangerous here than Somaliland. Soon, someone will die.'

Another resident, 45-year-old Parvena, of Iraqi Kurd origin, revealed that her handsome young son Ilyas, aged nine, was a few feet from a bullet that hit the ground. 'Children are frightened they will be shot if they play outside their own homes,' she said.

It is the third time this year that the rival gangs have staged shootouts at the playground. Ilyas, who has seen two of them, said in a small voice when we visited: 'It's scary to live here.'

Yet the mothers, and local politicians, say the playground gangsters came from the same communities of Iraqi Kurd, Somali, Afghan and Syrian refugees as theirs — families given sanctuary in Eskilstuna.

'They deal in drugs and make their money that way. They don't

have jobs,' explained Parvena. 'Some are still pupils at the local school and we know their families' names.'

Few understand more about the spiralling youth violence in the town than Elin Harnby, principal at Eskilstuna Middle School, which takes pupils up to the age of 17 — 60 per cent of them with

Bullets whizzed past families having picnics

mothers who have Swedish as a second language.

She says that since the latest shootings, the younger children have asked her if they can have bullet-proof vests to wear to lessons. She told the Mail: 'We have boys leaving school who don't

go on to further education. They drop out and turn away from our society into a life of criminality.'

Eskilstuna's mayor, Jimmy Jansson, is unsurprised. Even before the election results showed that Right-wing parties had won half the votes in his town, he warned that a tragedy was befalling Sweden.

The 44-year-old, a leading light in the Social Democrats, said a 'pandemic' of shootings, rapes and drug-dealing by young men was sweeping the country. Of 8,200 people counted by Swedish police as criminal gang members last year, almost 15 per cent were under 18.

'I am working class but I didn't deal drugs or fire guns as a teenager,' he said. 'The youngsters shooting at the playground are in our local school right now. They have a double life, being criminals at night and pupils by day. They are chameleons.'

He insists that most were born in Sweden to migrant families given refuge years ago. Others arrived as children in 2015-16, he says, during

the biggest migration wave into Europe since World War II.

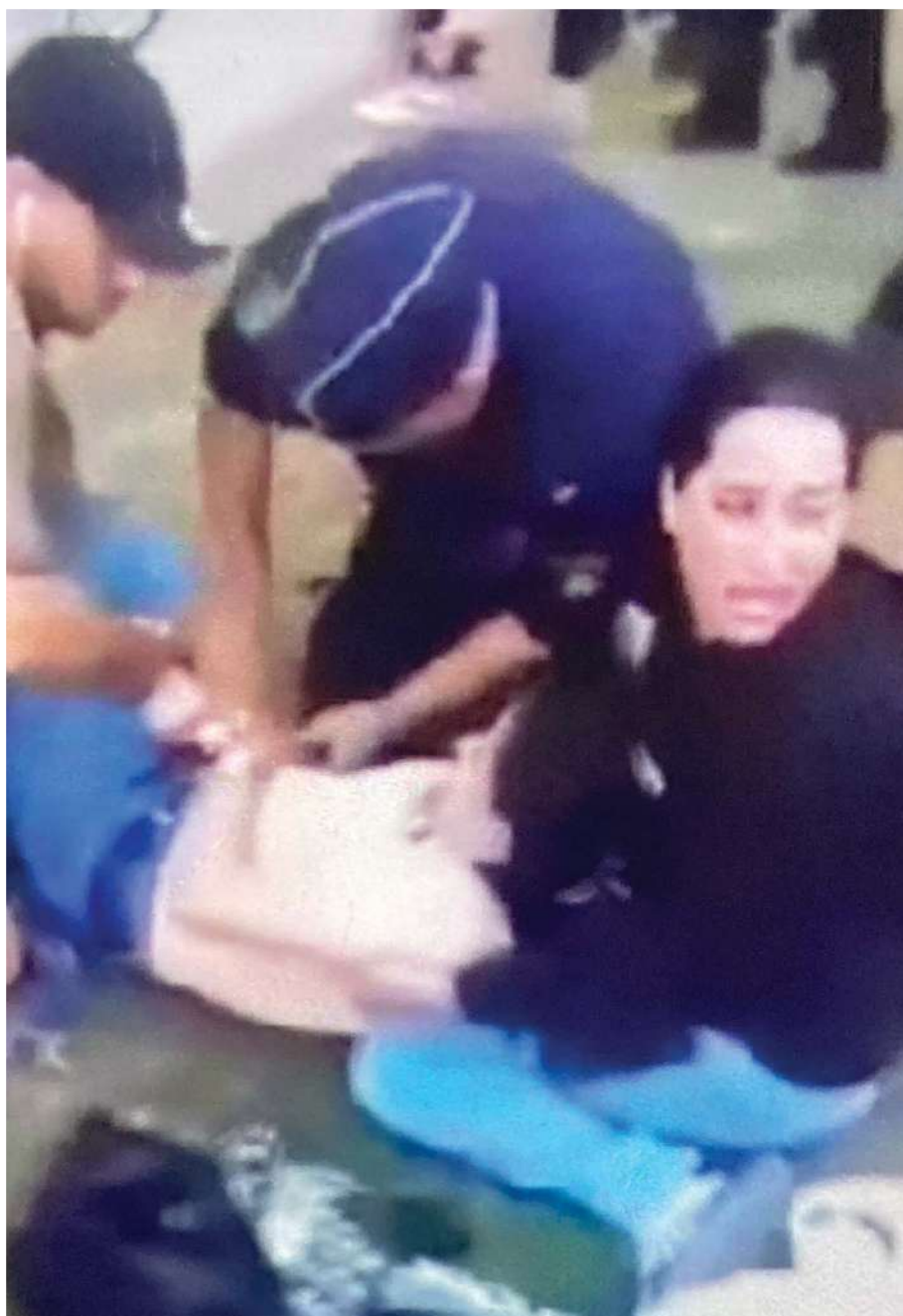
Mr Jansson said his party once believed that Sweden's 'terrifically strong' welfare state — offering free education, housing, medical care and copious child benefits — could cope with any problems of incomers with ease.

'We didn't understand that some don't want to join our society; that they come here to live but not to work,' he explained. 'They are not interested in Sweden or its culture. We reach out to them but they don't want to be reached.'

This sorry state of affairs, he said, has angered ordinary Swedes, who believe their generosity to immigrants has been hurled back in their faces.

Before the election, Mr Jansson was called a racist by Left-wingers because, unusually among his party's politicians, he argued for a halt in immigration, saying Sweden should not pour petrol on a burning fire.

He insists that family benefits should also be cut so migrant families are encouraged to have



Gun terror: A policeman and onlookers try to help a young mother hit by a stray bullet during the playground shooting in Eskilstuna last month



Pictures: GEORGIE GILLARD

fewer children — the current system gives an extra monthly sum for each new baby. And he supports 'harsher' punishments for possessing a gun.

In Sweden's lax youth penal system, a convicted murderer aged under 18 serves just two or three years in a reform establishment. Mr Jansson said: 'It could be too late to save Sweden if nothing is done now.'

In a way, Sweden has cooked its own goose. During the migration crisis seven years ago, when a million refugees came to Europe from Syria, elsewhere in the Middle East and Africa, at least 163,000 were welcomed here, despite the country's comparatively small population, which was then 9.5 million.

Sweden believed the bulk of the newcomers were Syrians fleeing war — but many turned out to be Afghans, Iraqis, Iranians and Africans pretending to be genuine asylum-seekers. At that time, if you put 'asylum' in Arabic into an internet search engine, 'Sweden' came out as the top result.

The country was such a popular destination that it became the fastest-growing EU nation, accepting one in seven of all arrivals (more per capita than any other member state).

The result was a brutally damaging culture clash. Many of the incomers found it difficult to settle happily in the ultra-liberal Western society they had come to join.

There were other serious consequences, too. Only this week, a Twitter feed detailed a rape epidemic (against women and men) in Sweden.

It re-published data from Swedish National TV, later reported by

the BBC, showing that 58 per cent of men convicted of rape and attempted rape over the five years to 2018 were born abroad.

The Swedish broadcaster, which counted all court convictions, revealed that in cases where the victim did not know the attacker, the proportion of foreign-born offenders was 85 per cent.

The findings were in line with more recent Swedish studies and others from Switzerland, Norway, Finland and Denmark.

Among the most worrying results of the Swedish research, the TV programme added, was that other than Swedes, Afghans were the most common nationality among the convicted rapists, numbering 45 out of 843 people.

The programme's editor did note, however, that the total number of reported rapes in Sweden, as opposed to court convictions, was a far higher figure, so no final conclusions could be drawn on immigrant involvement in sexual attacks.

A former police officer from Afghanistan, helping young Afghans to settle in Sweden, told the programme that the attitudes of some of youngsters towards sexual equality differed significantly from views in their adopted country.

The Twitter feed included a shocking video allegedly posted recently by a 24-year-old migrant living in Sweden on his Instagram account. It shows him punching a seemingly unsuspecting girl, with overlaid text referring to her as a 'whore'.

In another video in the feed, a man says to the camera: 'We Arabs are here to take over your f***** country, you Swedish whore.' Two

weeks after this video was recorded, the man was arrested on suspicion of raping another woman, the Twitter feed claims.

The fact is, Sweden was so overwhelmed by sheer numbers that it had little time to check the identities or backgrounds of migrants during the first wave of arrivals in 2015-16.

Council flats in towns such as Eskilstuna, already hosting refugees, were allocated to the newcomers. They were encouraged to live together in the same areas in a gesture of kindness (and, many now say, huge naivety) by Swedish policymakers.

This had a doubly negative effect. First, native Swedes became disgruntled — and some remained

from the nation's own citizens about the kind of society it has become, and will be in future.

According to the independent Pew Research Centre in the U.S., by 2050, Muslims could make up a third of the Swedish population if migration remains at previous high levels, alongside a fall in the birth rate among native Swedes.

In February this year, a controversial imam, Basem Mahmoud, based in an immigrant enclave of Malmo, claimed Muslims would soon take over Sweden.

The imam, who has called Jewish people 'the offspring of pigs and apes', saying he was quoting Islam's Koran, proclaimed in a recorded speech: 'Sweden is ours in ten or 15 years, whether they (Swedes) like it or not'.

It was a brave senior police officer called Peter Springare who a few years ago first publicly exposed the immigrant crime wave dogging Sweden which has led to this week's political swing to the Right.

In an online posting, he wrote of his working week: 'This is what I've handled between Monday and Friday: rape, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, rape-assault and rape, extortion, blackmail, assault, violence against police, threats to police, drug crime, drug crime, felony, attempted murder, rape again, extortion again and ill-treatment...'

'Countries representing the crimes this week: Iraq, Iraq, Turkey, Syria, Afghanistan, Somalia, Somalia, Syria again, Somalia...'

Inevitably, the police officer was hauled before Swedish officials for committing a hate crime. In the

end, after public protests supporting him, no action was taken.

It was revelations such as his that pushed Mikael Stromberg into politics. A would-be MP and official of Eskilstuna's Sweden Democrats, he told us before the election: 'Everything must change' to save Sweden from 'disaster'.

'We have shootings at the weekend, the weekdays, all day and night time, outside schools, children's nurseries and in playgrounds. Every tenth shooting in Sweden — whether it kills or not — happens in Eskilstuna.'

'Sweden is today the most dangerous country in Europe. And Eskilstuna is the most dangerous place in Sweden.'

He used to be an international technical consultant but gave up his career to enter politics. 'I thought, I won't be able to look my son in the eye when he is 15 if I do nothing to help Sweden.'

The 42-year-old, his wife and two children, aged four and six, used to live in an apartment in a pink-painted block just a stroll away from Eskilstuna's main square.

'We couldn't stay,' he says. 'There were too many shootings and even rapes right here in town. I was afraid for my children and their future.'

Also worried about the future is Kristian, the Swede begging for coins in central Stockholm.

His vote last weekend, unsurprisingly, went to the Sweden Democrats because he believes the party will bring help to ordinary Swedes like himself.

It is clear many others in this well-meaning but now beleaguered nation feel the same way.

'Everything in the country must change'

homeless, as migrants were pushed ahead in the state housing queue. And second, the areas where migrants settled became ghettoised, full of predominantly Arabic speakers who often viewed police as the enemy and ignored local laws, such as the compulsory wearing of cycle helmets and street-smoking bans, as crime rates soared.

Now Sweden's liberal political elite face uncomfortable questions

Sex AND class war



THE REAL COLDITZ UNCOVERED

WITH his waxed ginger handlebar moustache and mutton-chop beard, hardened veteran Stabsfeldwebel (Sergeant Major) Gustav Rothenberger was an unmistakable figure at Colditz Castle, the grim, towering, medieval fortress in Nazi Germany that had been turned into a supposedly escape-proof prisoner-of-war camp.

A stickler for routine, every evening this martinet personally inspected the castle perimeter. The last stop on his rounds was always a narrow terrace carved out of the rock, the mighty castle wall on one side and a sheer drop on the other.

Guards with machine guns were posted every 30 ft along the walkway, which led to a barbed wire gate. On the other side lay parkland and woods. Two more sentries guarded the gate itself, one patrolling a raised metal catwalk with a clear line of fire across the terrace.

Shortly before midnight on a warm September night in 1943, Rothenberger, whiskers brushed, clipped and waxed to points, appeared on the terrace, accompa-

Colditz even had its own Oxford-style 'Bullingdon Club'

nied by two soldiers with slung rifles. It was unusually late for him. The prisoners had been locked into their quarters two hours earlier, and Colditz was quiet.

He marched up smartly to the guards on the terrace and barked: 'There is an attempted escape on the west side. Report to the guardhouse immediately.' They saluted, clicked their heels and took off.

The two sentries manning the gate were equally surprised to see him. They were not due to go off duty for another two hours. 'You're relieved early,' snapped the sergeant major, appearing to be particularly irritable tonight.

But appearances can be deceptive. Because this was a fake Rothenberger. A close inspection of his facial hair would have revealed that it was made from dismantled shaving brushes, coloured ginger-grey with water-colour paints from the prison shop and attached with glue.

His uniform, like those of his escorts, was stitched out of prison blankets and dyed the correct shade of German field grey; the Iron Cross on his breast was made from zinc stripped off the castle roof and moulded into shape with a hot kitchen knife.

His headgear had been fashioned out of a peaked RAF cap using felt and string; his pistol holster was cardboard, shined up with brown boot polish, from which poked a piece of wood painted to look like



Legend holds that inmates of the Nazis' infamous castle prison were the epitome of the British stiff upper lip. Now an enthralling book reveals it was actually a hotbed of snobbery, bullying — and cross-dressing



by Ben Macintyre

the butt of a Walther P38 pistol. The two soldiers in greatcoats carried dummy rifles with wooden barrels polished with pencil lead, bolts fashioned from bits of a steel bedstead and tin triggers formed from metal cutlery.

The impersonator's name was Michael Sinclair, a 25-year-old British lieutenant. Fluent in German and a talented amateur actor, for four months he had studied the real Rothenberger's gait, posture and accent, his routine, his mannerisms, the way he swore when angry.

As he stood talking to the sentries at the gate, high above the terrace, 35 more British officers in handmade civilian clothes waited in the darkness on the

sixth floor of the castle, where the bars on the windows had already been sawn through.

Each carried a counterfeit travel pass, forged using a typewriter of wood and wire, a photograph taken with a camera made from a cigar box and spectacles, and authorised with the official German eagle stamp carved out of a shoe heel using a razor blade.

As they saw the first guard hurry off, one of them whispered: 'It's going to work!' If it did, it would be the first mass breakout in Colditz history.

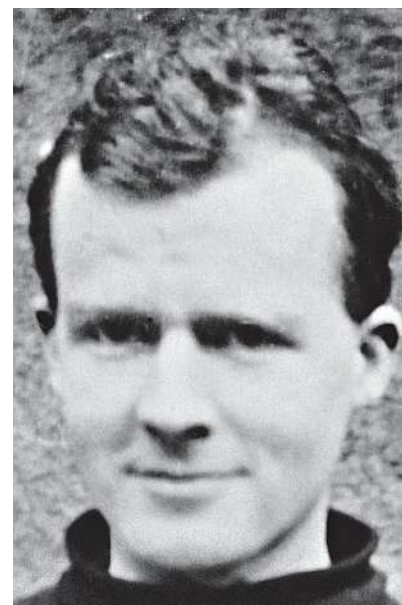
The plan was that, with the sentries out of the way, a first group of 20 would climb down on knotted bedsheets, Sinclair would unlock the gate to the park and

they would all scramble down the slope into the nearby woods.

Once in the trees, they would split into pairs and spread out into the countryside, before making for the Swiss border by a variety of prearranged routes. If the first batch got away, the rest would follow a few minutes later.

But at the gate, the one remaining sentry was hesitant. The fake Rothenberger was cursing him. 'Are you daft? Don't you know your own sergeant-major?' But an order had recently been issued that everyone entering or leaving the castle, without exception, must produce an exit pass, with a different colour for each day.

The guard insisted on being shown a pass, which the reluctant 'Rothenberger' eventually produced. Dated, signed and stamped, this was a copy of a real pass obtained from a bribed German guard. It was a perfect duplicate. Except it was the wrong colour. It was supposed to be yellow and it was



ACTOR, AND NAZI

grey. The sentry stared at it for a moment, then back at the red-faced, moustachioed figure berating him. Then he slowly raised his rifle and sounded the alarm.

Another escape had been foiled but it had been a particularly brilliant, imaginative attempt, adding to the legend of Colditz that has stood unchanged and unchallenged for more than 70 years — heroic British officers in a Gothic castle on a German hilltop, tunnelling through the walls, hiding in the sewers, clinging to the undersides of lorries, ruse after ruse to defy the Nazis and escape.

Yet that tale contains only a part of the truth. Yes, the story of Colditz is one of the indomitable human spirit, but it is also one of bullying, boredom, insanity, tragedy and farce.

After the war, former inmates tended to portray the Colditz prisoner community as a classless, cohesive band of brothers whose shared determination to escape

...in COLDITZ



pictures: AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL / PRIVATE COLLECTION / CHANNEL 4

HE IMPERSONATED

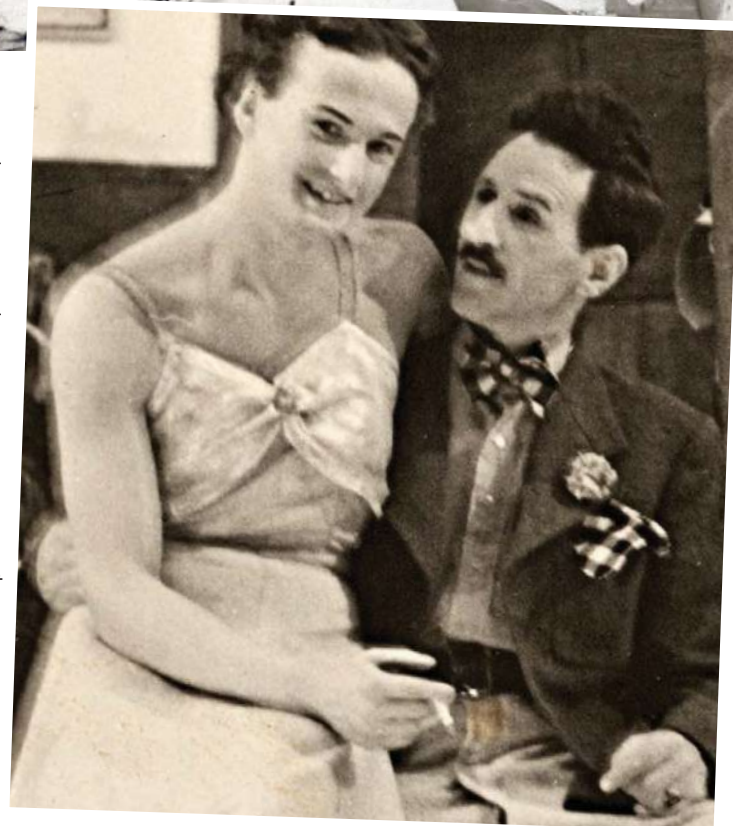
somehow flattened out the distinctions and dissonances that divided the world outside. Exactly the reverse was true.

'The class structure in Colditz was like the class structure of the time,' said one new arrival. 'There was a working class, who were the soldiers, the orderlies who had to work. There was the middle class — officers from minor or major public schools — and then there was an upper class, which included Lords of the Realm.'

The 'old school tie' mentality not only persisted but was exacerbated in captivity, as the inmates sought to build a replica of the lives they had known before the war.

Beyond class, there were also divisions of military rank, service, nationality, seniority and the different ways a man might choose to pass the time.

Informal clubs such as the 'House of Lords' and the 'Kindergarten' began to form in the mess hall as men found their 'tribe' and stuck



Camp goings-on: Top, 'Ballet Nonsense' in 1941. Above, officers act in a play, 1943. Left, Lt Mike Sinclair and Gustav Rothenberger

together. Eventually, Colditz even had its own 'Bullington Club', modelled on the all-male Oxford University private dining club that has since become a byword for elitist philistinism.

It was 'mostly Old Etonians with the necessary "old school" and horsey characteristics,' one member recalled. 'We got on wonderfully well.'

One of the nastier traditions of the British public school was the ritual humiliation of 'new bugs' by older boys, and this too had its counterpart in Colditz.

On their first day, 16 naval officers were summoned to a bogus medical examination where an officer dressed in fake German uniform and posing as the camp

doctor, complete with stethoscope, ordered them to drop their trousers before loudly declaring, in German, that they were all infested with venereal crabs.

A 'medical assistant' in a lab coat was barely able to contain his mirth as he daubed their testicles with a blue 'wood' made up of scenery paint and 'high-smelling lavatory disinfectant'.

It was regarded as just having fun at the new boys' expense — but it was straightforward bullying, a brutal assertion of power of the sort that English public schoolboys have always inflicted on one another.

That ethos was also present in the common Colditz practice of 'goon-baiting' — goading the

German guards to a point just short of explosion.

The aim was to chalk up a moral victory over the enemy by making the guards look foolish — by, for example, staring at a German's fly buttons until he became self-conscious and felt obliged to check them. A small victory could then be chalked up.

Another technique was simply to behave oddly: playing imaginary snooker, for example, or walking a non-existent dog.

Most senior British officers tolerated goon-baiting as high jinks and good for morale. But some, including the camp's Methodist padre, Jock Platt, saw it as demeaning, infantile behaviour that reinforced the German sense of superiority and gave them an easy excuse to impose collective punishments, such as suspending exercise privileges.

He was right that the lampooning of the guards was tremendously silly. But it served as a psychological prop, enabling powerless men to get back at their captors.

What troubled the padre most of all, though, was sex — or rather, the lack of it and what deprived men would resort to. His concerns began in 1941 when the actors and entertainers in the Colditz community decided to put on a Christmas show of off-colour jokes, puns, lavatorial humour, slapstick, satire and farce.

They called it 'Ballet Nonsense' and the highlight was a choreographed display by a corps de ballet consisting of the toughest-looking, heaviest-moustached officers available, who performed miracles of energetic grace and unsophisticated elegance attired in frilly crepe paper ballet skirts and brassieres.

It ran for two nights, to universal acclaim — but Padre Platt was appalled. He detected the illicit flutter of sexuality on stage, backstage and in the audience. Men dressed up as women could only incite sexual thoughts, which in turn would encourage masturbation or, worse, homosexuality.

While some of those on stage were obviously men dressed as

did not exist. Yet enforced celibacy was an additional cruelty, the more burdensome for being a taboo subject.

Peter Storie-Pugh, a medical student before the war, worked in the sick bay and noted how many men were suffering the prolonged effects of sexual repression. One frustrated officer even tried to castrate himself.

For some, the answer was other men, though homosexuality was a subject the British dealt with by the time-honoured method of not talking about it.

During the daytime, such relations were virtually impossible anyway, with the prison courtyard and the exercise yard so crammed with milling prisoners that, as one observed, 'it would be easier to have a homosexual relationship on a Tube train'.

But night-time, when the castle's

'It's all smoking, sleeping and self-abuse'

hidden corners were accessible, was a different matter.

For Padre Platt, sexual deviancy (as he saw it) was a problem not merely of discipline but of eternal damnation. He grew alarmed that 'homosexuality has occupied an increasingly large place in contemporary prison humour' and that books by Oscar Wilde and Frank Harris were being surreptitiously passed around.

He then heard rumours that 'a small mutual masturbation group hold what they hope are secret sessions', followed by the arrival of a young officer he believed was liable to turn the heads of those 'susceptible to homosexual inclination'.

He decided it was his religious duty to intervene. Telling grown men to keep their hands off themselves and each other was, he admitted, 'as difficult a task as has yet come my way'. He fully expected that the group would 'tell me to mind my own business! But this happens to be my business!'

Whether Padre Platt ever intruded into this delicate matter remains a mystery. But he never again alluded to the mutual masturbation group in his diary, leading some people to imagine that it had miraculously ceased following the intervention of God's representative.

On the other hand, it may simply have been easier to pretend that same-sex relationships did not happen, or at most to concede, as did one senior officer, that 'there was probably an element of homosexual feeling at times but never practising'.

This is, of course, nonsense. The men of Colditz probably practised exactly as much, if not more, than one would expect, but as in the wider world where homosexuality was still illegal, they did so in secrecy, in closets and in perpetual fear of being caught.

Another subject seldom openly discussed was depression, although its spectre stalked Colditz. Morale ebbed and flowed. Spirits might rise with the arrival of a Red Cross parcel, then plunge

TURN TO NEXT PAGE

'Hard to keep your hands off the leading ladies'

implausible women, others had gone to considerable lengths to achieve a simulacrum of femininity. 'The leading ladies were incredibly convincing,' Platt noted. As the ukulele player in the band admitted: 'It was very hard to keep your hands off them.'

In Colditz, British attitudes to sex, never straightforward in the first place, achieved a uniquely torturous complexity as the prisoners' repressed sexual urges were coped with in ways both obvious and innovative.

One frustrated inventor came up with the 'lecherscope', a home-made telescope that could be used to ogle young women down in the town, some of whom obligingly, and perhaps knowingly, undressed in front of their windows or sunbathed in the open.

The prisoners tried to make light of their sexual frustrations, mocking them or pretending they



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Jailed, ex-BBC radio DJ stalker who left Jeremy Vine fearing for his life

A FORMER BBC local radio DJ who waged an online harassment campaign against Jeremy Vine was yesterday jailed for five-and-a-half years.

Alex Belfield, 42, 'weaponised the internet' and left the BBC Radio 2 and Channel 5 TV presenter fearing for his life.

Belfield, who has more than 360,000 subscribers on YouTube, used the video-sharing platform to subject him to a 'wave of personal attacks', which Vine said left him unable to eat or sleep.

Belfield, who was briefly a DJ on BBC Radio Leeds, also repeatedly contacted

By Claire Duffin

Vine and three others via email, tweets or Facebook. Last month he was convicted of stalking Vine, BBC Northampton host Bernard Spedding, videographer Ben Hewis and theatre critic Philip Dehany.

At Nottingham Crown Court yesterday, Mr Justice Saini told Belfield that Spedding 'was seconds away from taking his own life as a result of your conduct'.

The judge also imposed restraining orders preventing Belfield, of Nottingham, from contacting his victims.

Trump 'wanted Greenland for US after seeing it on map'

DONALD Trump offered to trade US territory Puerto Rico for Denmark's Greenland in secret negotiations with the government in Copenhagen, a new book claims.

The ex-president is said to have wanted to buy the island near North America for the US after spotting it on a map and saying: 'Why don't we have that?'

He suggested the idea in 2019 and, although it was dismissed as 'Trump being Trump', he is said to have kept on pushing until Ronald Lauder, an heir to the Estée Lauder cosmetics firm, offered

From **Daniel Bates**
in New York

himself as a 'back channel' to negotiate with the Danes. When they refused to sell it, the trade for Puerto Rico – the Caribbean island Trump once branded 'dirty' and 'corrupt' – was proposed.

Among other claims in Peter Baker and Susan Glasser's *The Divider*: Trump in the White House is that Mr Trump waved aside his wife's warning that 'you're blowing this' over his botched response to Covid, saying: 'You worry too much.'



Habitat Nomad Desk

FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

again when the hot water stopped or an escape failed.

For many, there was also the anxiety of wondering what was happening to wives and lovers back at home and the worry of a 'Dear John' letter dumping them.

For most, their time in Colditz was soul-crushingly boring. If you weren't one of the elite who spent every waking hour formulating and refining escape plans, there was nothing to do.

Some read books or sought to improve or entertain themselves in other ways, including theatrical productions and concerts, while others played cards, wrote letters, dreamed of home and surreptitiously masturbated. As one inmate put it, the hours between meals and roll calls were worn away in a cycle of 'smoking, sleeping and self-abuse'.

Anything out of the ordinary was exciting. One day a guard wrote in his diary: 'The French have caught a mouse and are letting it drift down on a parachute from the fourth floor.'

But such diversions were short-lived. Lights out, at 9.30pm, came as 'a blessed relief, for it meant the end of another wasted and useless day'.

Some men were undoubtedly experiencing what would today be diagnosed as PTSD. Yet the captives, including the doctors

and priests, tended to regard depression in much the same way that homesickness was treated in all-male boarding schools: a sign of weakness which was best ignored. 'The stiff upper lip is a great thing to hide behind,' one inmate remarked.

Most wore their sadness in secrecy, or vigorously repressed it. 'I suddenly realised I was going round the bend,' wrote

**The guard said
'It's no use,
Herr Sinclair'**

one officer. 'I took myself, metaphorically, off into the corner of the room, and gave myself a good dressing down.'

But even the most optimistic felt their spirits start to sag as the months and years passed.

Desperation set in for some — such as Mike Sinclair, whose escape plan by impersonating Stabsfeldwebel Rothenberger was frustrated at the very last obstacle. His need to escape was not simply urgent and all-consuming but pathological. He

had escaped twice from Colditz before being caught and brought back. Now he spent hours staring furiously over the castle ramparts, smoking his pipe, memorising the guards' movements, searching for gaps in the walls.

'Poor Mike absolutely loathed every minute of this life and had no other interest except in trying to escape,' wrote a fellow inmate. 'He would never admit defeat.'

In autumn 1944, he joined a group of prisoners as they shuffled to the exercise enclosure. The guards took up their positions around the wire fence, 8ft high and topped with barbed wire.

A game of football started. Men relaxed in the sunshine or chatted in groups, while others strolled around the path just inside the perimeter.

Sinclair walked alone for half an hour, up and down the wire. No one noticed when he put on a pair of thick gloves, then jumped over the first tripwire and began climbing the perimeter fence.

For a moment he seemed to be spreadeagled in mid-air before he seized the uppermost strand of barbed wire and hauled himself up. He reached the top, balancing astride the swaying wires before the guards grasped what was happening and unslung their rifles.

The German NCO on duty that day was one who knew Sinclair and greatly admired him for his

heroics. He ran to the other side of the wire, where Sinclair had now dropped to the ground. 'It's no use, Herr Sinclair,' the guard said, not unkindly, but Sinclair knocked aside the man's pistol and sprinted up the slope, jinking as he ran.

He was already halfway to the outer wall when the first shot echoed around the park. Then two more, followed by a ragged volley from a dozen guards at different positions on the perimeter. A machine gun opened up from an emplacement.

Sinclair was still 10ft from the outer wall when he staggered and dropped to his knees. Then, slowly, he crumpled forward. Among the British, there were few recriminations against the Germans. The guards had fired

reluctantly, after due warning, and certainly without intent to kill. Which left the grim but unspoken possibility that Sinclair had meant to get himself killed.

Some ascribed his actions to a 'spontaneous breakdown in reason'. But Sinclair was perfectly sane when he died; he knew the most likely outcome of a 'dive at the wire'. It seems that after four years, he just couldn't stand captivity any more.

■ ADAPTED from *Colditz: Prisoners Of The Castle*, by Ben Macintyre, published by Viking at £25. © 2022 Ben Macintyre. To order a copy for £22.50, go to www.mailshop.co.uk/books or call 020 31762 937. Offer valid until 01/10/2022, UK delivery free on orders over £20.

IN TOMORROW'S

The Mail
ON SUNDAY

**Indian medic who
faced vile racism — but
refused to betray Britain**

Stabbed WPC left with 'life-changing injuries'

West End knife rampage leaves two officers wounded

By **George Odling** and **Ryan Hooper**

A FEMALE police officer has been left with potentially life-changing injuries after a man went on a stabbing rampage in London's West End.

After slashing her arm, he also attacked her male colleague in the neck and arm in the early hours of yesterday morning.

The attacker was eventually subdued when about six officers armed with Tasers arrived on the scene near Leicester Square and a member of the public threw his bike at him.

The knifeman was taken to hospital as a precaution. Ken Marsh, chairman of the Metropolitan Police Federation, said both officers remained in a 'serious' condition in hospital.

He added: 'They each received two stab



Blade: A knife spotted at crime scene

wounds, one had a burst artery in his arm.' The officers, who were unarmed, had been carrying out routine duties and were not part of the wider policing operation taking place ahead of the Queen's funeral.

Scotland Yard said a man, believed to be in his 20s, was arrested on suspicion of causing

grievous bodily harm and assaulting an emergency services worker.

Taxi driver Youssef Boucetta, 27, saw the chaos unfold at about 6am as he was on his way to pick up a passenger from Heathrow. He said: 'It was very disturbing, especially seeing the female officer had been stabbed.'

'First of all I saw this female officer appear from around the corner with blood on her arm. She was screaming "I've been stabbed, I've been stabbed", so I quickly got out of my car with my jacket and wrapped it around her.'

'Then these two male officers came around the corner. More police officers appeared. They surrounded the guy and Tasered him like five times.'

Footage of the incident appears to show the man fall to the ground, before he springs up and grabs his blade and slashes



'Everyone needs to be vigilant'

at the officers. They struggle to subdue him and the Tasers seem to have little effect, but he is eventually knocked to the ground and handcuffed.

Bloodstains can be seen on the sleeve of one shell-shocked officer.

A huge cordon took in much of the area known as Theatreland from early yesterday, placing the Apollo, Gielgud and Sondheim theatres - home to productions Jerusalem, To Kill a Mockingbird, and Les Misérables - behind police tape.

Deputy assistant commissioner Stuart Cundy said the attack was not thought to be terror-related and was understood to be an isolated incident.

It highlighted the risk posed to police officers and the need to be on alert during

Arrest: Officers subdue the attacker

the mourning period, he added. 'Two of our brave colleagues have been stabbed in central London. While it is not believed to be linked [to mourning for the Queen], it brings into sharp focus the need for everyone to be vigilant,' Mr Cundy said.

'It is a terrible event, but we don't believe it is related to the events that have been occurring this week.'

London Mayor Sadiq Khan said: 'These brave officers were doing their duty and assisting the public at this momentous time for our country.'

'My thoughts and prayers are with them, their loved ones and police colleagues following this disgraceful attack.'



Habitat Velvet Chair



Oak-Finish Dining Table

Annual Channel migrant total to pass 30,000 as 617 cross in a day

THE number of illegal migrants reaching Britain in small boats is to top 30,000 this weekend after hundreds more made the perilous Channel crossing.

The Ministry of Defence said 617 people made the journey in 14 boats on Thursday, taking the provisional total for the year to 29,700.

If the weather remains fair over the weekend, the total who have arrived on the shores of Kent this year is likely to pass the 30,000 mark today.

Earlier this week, the number who have arrived illegally by sea this year

By **Izzy Lyons**

overtook the total for all of 2021. Last year's figure of 28,526 was a record.

Among the arrivals this week were 38 who were in the sea for almost an hour after their dinghy rapidly deflated in UK waters. Britain launched a rescue operation and no deaths were reported.

In the five months since Priti Patel, the then Home Secretary, announced plans to send migrants to Rwanda to try to deter illegal Channel crossings, 23,293 have made the journey to the UK.

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BEL



Should I tell my husband is two

DEAR BEL

I HAVE long suspected that a close friend's husband is leading a double life with a woman he left my friend for years ago.

He left for a short time, but I believe he has continued the relationship ever since. They are now in their 70s.

The excuses my friend gives for her husband's constant absences are like works of fiction, and I often wonder if she actually knows but doesn't want to live her life alone.

I am now faced with the fact of knowing for certain he is in a relationship, and it is weighing heavily on me.

My friend has never told me about her husband leaving her all those years

ago, but he did. Yet if ever a conversation about infidelity ever crops up she always says: 'Well, anyone is entitled to one mistake.'

I dread seeing her husband now and I feel uncomfortable about seeing my friend. The husband is aware that I know, but we have not discussed it.

They live in my town and we have known each other for many years, so it's difficult to avoid them.

I hate the way my friend is being treated. Her husband is often unpleasant to her and there doesn't seem to be any love and affection from him.

I don't know what to do. Should I tell her?

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*Nothing is here for tears, nothing to wail
Or knock the breast, no weakness, no contempt,
Dispraise, or blame, nothing but well and fair;
And what may quiet us in a death so noble.*

From Samson Agonistes by John Milton
(English poet, 1608-1674)

friend her cheating timing her again?

THE Reverend Sydney Smith (1771-1845) was a reluctant cleric who knew much more about humankind than about God. His wit and wisdom remains as relevant as ever.

For example, think about the following: 'Did you ever hear my definition of marriage? It is, that it resembles a pair of shears, so joined that they cannot be separated, often moving in opposite directions, yet always punishing anyone who comes between them.'

With that thought in mind... here's a true story.

A dear friend of mine once told me about the evening he had spent with someone he'd known as a good friend for many years. The man's wife was having an affair and was about to leave, and the poor husband was sad, bitter, despairing and asking for support.

So my friend waxed eloquently truthful as the wine flowed, admitting that neither he nor their other mates had ever liked the wife, who was an awful, tedious, domineering flirt without whom the hurting husband's life would certainly be much better.

And what happened? The couple were reconciled and the husband never spoke to my friend again in his life.

No one can ever know the complexities and accommodations that keep a marriage going. No one can comprehend the quiet

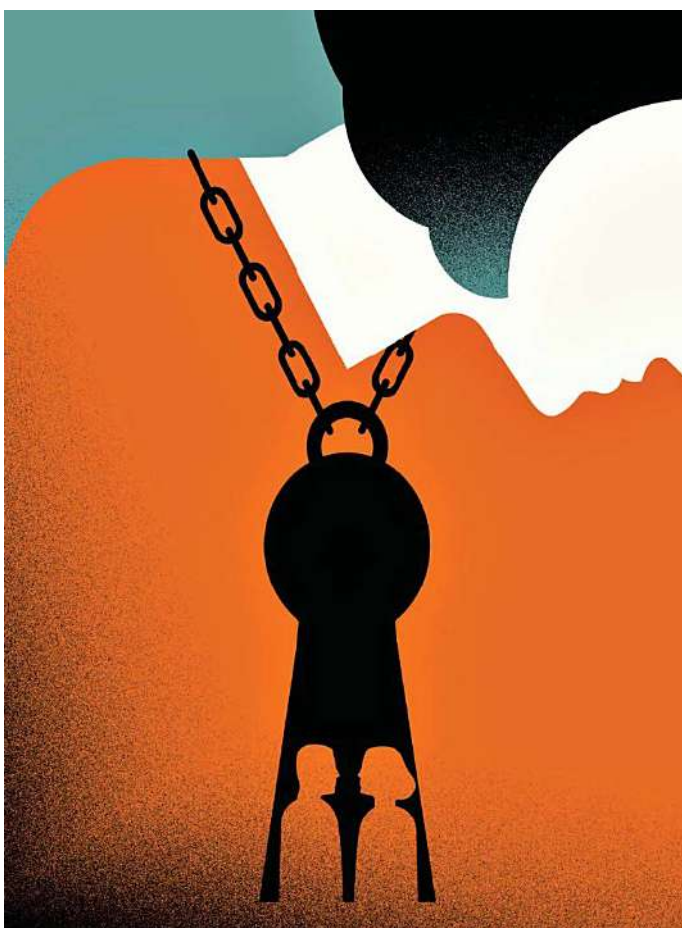


Illustration:
NEIL WEBB

desperation which can keep a couple together against the odds. No one can understand that a couple might even have affairs yet remain devoted to one another.

Couples who seem mismatched and who squabble incessantly can, nevertheless, support each other unto death. Other smiling couples can seem 'perfect' yet fall apart in a spectacular drama, then display appalling mutual cruelty, while their own children lie injured on their battlefield.

It's clear that you are a good, loyal friend, trusted by both the husband and the wife.

It's interesting that he unburdened himself to you, whereas his wife never has. That could be because she is 'ashamed' to be identified as a wronged wife, because he made her look foolish to herself. Whereas he either felt horribly guilty or chuffed at having pulling power.

NOW you say you know for sure that the affair has continued, but it's not clear how the man knows you are privy to the information.

No matter. Your problem is whether to tell the truth to the wife, whom (you say) isn't treated with consideration in other ways.

My question is: what would be gained by telling her what you know? You can't lift that heavy burden by transferring it to her.

If she chooses not to know the full extent of his infidelity, it's her business, not yours. If she thinks that in her 70s this is the best that's possible... she may be right.

Stay silent, since informing on him could hurt you all.

AND FINALLY

The comfort of being united in a nation's grief

DO YOU ever feel sometimes that you just don't know what to do with your sadness?

In the past week, I watched all the ceremonials throughout the British Isles and felt such compassion for the sorrow etched on the faces of our late Queen's children. Then we went to visit a very old friend, alone in her house now her wonderful husband has 'gone before'.

I recalled all the happy times we've shared since first meeting when we were both just 34, with very young children who played together. We're grandmothers now, and in my melancholy mood I wondered which one of us would attend the other's funeral.

Back home the phone rang... and a quiet, stoical wife (a newer friend) warned me that her husband — such an admirable man — is very near the end of his days.

Back watching our late Queen's coffin, draped in the glorious Royal Standard, I found it impossible not to cry. The solemnity of the cortege. The bowed heads at



four corners of the catafalque. Every sort of person, all races, all ages, needing to be there, to be 'part of history'. The powerful sense of gratitude, loyalty and loss.

Of course, within a 15-month period I had also mourned both my parents, and we know that a significant 'public' death triggers memories of private sorrow.

Among those crowds gathering for the Queen's coffin there must have been so many souls who felt strangely comforted by a collective grief and shared mourning. We are, indeed, all in this — this life — together.

Meanwhile, beyond my TV set, the autumn sun was as warm and golden as the colours in the Royal Standard. Our trees are heavy with fruit. Delicate webs gleam as the spiders get busy in mating season. But the swallows have already departed. Leaves have started to turn, the nights are chilly and the dew is as heavy as a sad heart.

So it goes on: autumn; change; slow decay; the steady, inexorable pageant of death which nothing and nobody can avoid.

Oh, but the children! Beautiful to watch the Prince of Wales accept a wee Paddington Bear. To hear young voices reading out sweet messages to the late Queen. To see babes in arms and the faces of little ones as cheeky as my own grandchildren, waiting for a Queen they'll barely remember through the years of good King Charles.

A mother says: 'It'll be something to tell the grandchildren.' And that is what it's all about: the unstoppable cycles of the seasons and the ages of humankind. But also the powerful awareness which brings deep consolation — that service and love are as endless as this country of ours is great.

■ BEL answers readers' questions on emotional and relationship problems each week. Write to Bel Mooney, Daily Mail, 2 Derry Street, London W8 5TT, or email bel.mooney@dailymail.co.uk. Names are changed to protect identities. Bel reads all letters but regrets she cannot enter into personal correspondence.

DEAR BEL,

MY MOTHER and father-in-law are very intense and can be quite overbearing. Three years ago, my husband took a new job that meant us relocating three hours away from his family. One reason was for us to get a bit of independence from them.

We are happier here and we get on much better with his parents now that we do not see them as often.

But during their last visit my father-in-law said they are house hunting and want to move to be closer to us. My husband and I are unhappy at this news, but we do not have the heart to tell them.

How do we gently put them off moving closer? We still see them regularly (usually a long weekend every other month and sometimes more), but when we lived nearby they would call unannounced and did not (and still do not) respect boundaries. Any advice?

NORA

Help! My needy in-laws want to move closer to us

WHEN two people seek more independence from two other people who want to become more dependent, then the stage is set for such a clash of desires.

I'm not sure how effective the gentleness you mention can possibly be. I'm sorry if that seems like a negative start, but I must be honest. And so, in the end, must you... unless you choose a path of pragmatic dishonesty.

I realise how hard the situation is, but what choice do you have? Unless you are frank with your husband's parents or pick away through the conflicting desires, the answer is surely: 'None.'

Let's pause for a moment and share sympathy for your in-laws. Their desires are understandable. I suspect they are thinking that as they grow old they would like to be near the son they love.

There is nothing unreasonable about that human wish, although its effects on your life might turn out to be unreasonable in the extreme. If, in fact, there is a large,

extended family where they live now, then their wish to move near you becomes possibly more selfish.

You and your husband are being honest in feeling you will be driven mad by their proximity and increasing demands. So what can you do?

Obviously, not tell them the painful truth, but perhaps rely on the kind of half-truth which segues into an outright lie. I would never advise being blunt and unkind.

But if I were your husband I might invent a series of putative job prospects which may well require him to move again, and again.

You could also start complaining about where you live and say that as far as you are concerned you don't mind moving on.

If you read my column from two weeks ago, you will know from Alexandra's painful letter about her difficult parents that it is hard to set boundaries as people grow older. I would perhaps promise your in-laws you will increase your visits back home.

Escape

by SARA
MACEFIELD

TALK about making a stylish entrance. With sails billowing in the buffeting breeze, our tall ship Star Clipper sashays like a supermodel on its approach to the glitzy Riviera playground of Monte Carlo.

As we sweep into the marina, I'm mesmerised by Monaco's mountainous backdrop soaring above the Monte Carlo skyline of uber-modern apartment blocks and statuesque Belle Epoque buildings.

Yet as I watch a clutch of futuristic gin palaces gliding past in the marina, I can't help feeling superior. They are mere pretenders when compared to the authentic style of our elegant barquentine.

Star Clipper is as far removed from a traditional cruise experience as you can get; reliving sailing's golden age with ropes snaking across teak decks and stretching into rigging resembling a colossal cat's cradle, or simply coiled up like giant cobras.

Each departure is an experience to behold as crew members swarm between masts, nimbly heaving ropes around winches that whine and groan with the effort of unfurling vast sails to the stirring notes of Vangelis's *Conquest of Paradise*, which plays on every sailaway.

Early mornings are another highlight during this Mediterranean sojourn along the French Riviera to Corsica when I'm often the only one treading the freshly-hosed decks. This is prime time for dolphin and porpoise-spotting and my husband, Geoff, strikes lucky when a pod of porpoises appears, diving and twisting with abandon in the ship's prow wave.

I'm dismayed to miss such marine acrobatics, but am engaged on my own voyage of discovery. With yoga classes hosted by a charming instructor, I try her pre-breakfast sessions on deck. I'm the only beginner and do my best to master the seemingly impossible positions. But the warmth of the sun, irresistible lapping of waves and gentle flapping of sails make this the most evocative of experiences.

Unfortunately, our twin teenage daughters do not share this enthusiasm for early rising. But once they are (finally) up, they relish ship life, with Holly and I climbing the rope ladder up the mast to the crow's nest 65ft up, and Dani perfecting selfie poses around the deck in between chilling by one of the two small pools.

Admittedly, this isn't a cruise suited to the very young, the elderly (most of our fellow guests are in their 60s) or anyone with mobility issues due to steep stair-

ways and deck areas cluttered with ropes and pulleys. Yet children aged from eight upwards, and ideally teens, will relish the feeling of adventure even when capricious coastal breezes mean sails are swapped for engine power.

LYING in the bowsprit nets at the prow, just above the waves, becomes one of our favourite pastimes, and one evening we are rewarded with perfect views of a shoal of giant yellow-fin tuna coursing through the inky depths beneath us.

Star Clipper — one of three tall ships belonging to family-owned and Monaco-based boutique line Star Clippers, established by Swedish entrepreneur Mikael

Krafft — holds around 170 guests, though our sailing is less than half full, with a mix of mainly British, Australian and American passengers plus a smattering of Germans and French.

Such a cosy international mix contributes to the house-party ambience and relaxed vibe that is centred around the Tropical Bar, the ship's *de facto* social hub where party nights liven up evenings.

Ship life is comfortable in a smart nautical way, with wood and brass interiors extending through the public areas and into our cabin with its small porthole and bijou ensuite.

The dining room is light and airy and meal times are a treat with delicious buffet lunches, sometimes Italian or Asian-themed, and substantial five-course

dinners where we feast on steak, lobster and fresh fish.

Best of all, the square rigger's petite size means we can moor in the centre of small, atmospheric ports off-limits to larger ships, making it easy to explore under our own steam.

Corsica meets our requirements for rustic charm and rugged scenery overlaid with Gallic influences and the enduring spirit of Napoleon, whose family hailed from here. In the capital, Ajaccio, its streets lined with chic boutiques and cafes, we visit the Bonaparte family home.

Another stop takes us to Portoferraio in Elba, where Napoleon was exiled in 1814, splitting his time between two residences (now museums), before giving his British overseers the slip and fleeing after

less than a year. Such a mix of history and glorious views make this one of our favourite stops, along with the medieval Corsican town of Bonifacio, whose smart marina and chi chi restaurants are a fitting foil to the winding streets of the old town and its 9th-century citadel.

Yet, beguiling as these ports are, they can't compete with Star Clipper, which proves to be the real showstopper of this voyage.

TRAVEL FACTS

Star Clippers (starclippers.co.uk) offers a seven-night sailing from Cannes to Civitavecchia (Rome), including calls at Monaco, several points in Corsica and Elba, departing May 13, 2023. From £2,039pp, including flights.

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Showstopper:
One of Star Clippers'
fleet, and (inset
above) Monte Carlo



Dear Reader

SADNESS everywhere. And the pound seems to have caught the mood with an untimely decline just as people start thinking about autumn breaks abroad.

I was reminded rudely of this on arriving at Gatwick ten days ago for an early flight (no long queues, no significant delays) to Bordeaux (left) and realising I had forgotten to buy any euros.

Normally, I pop into my local Marks & Spencer to acquire foreign currency. Certainly, nothing on earth would make me change money at a UK airport, where it should be illegal to offer such

appalling rates. The pound is now in danger of dipping below its all-time low of \$1.05 in 1985. The dollar is hugely strong and already on par with the euro, having been bolstered by America's secure energy supplies and its approach to anti-inflationary interest rate rises, which have been more aggressive than ours so far.

Flip the coin, though, and it means tourism going the other way will benefit. Americans visiting the UK will seldom have had it so good. And the pomp and ceremony of this week will have helped.

London has looked magnificent during this time of national mourning, its people coming across as loyal and

supremely patient. And what about Scotland? Those shots of the Aberdeenshire countryside as the Queen's coffin made its way to Edinburgh were glorious; and the Scottish capital's Royal Mile, with its 17th-century Old Town tenement houses, looked especially inviting.

By this time next week, life will have returned to near normal — and let's hope sterling responds accordingly.

Mark Palmer
TRAVEL EDITOR



Picture: ALAMY

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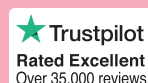
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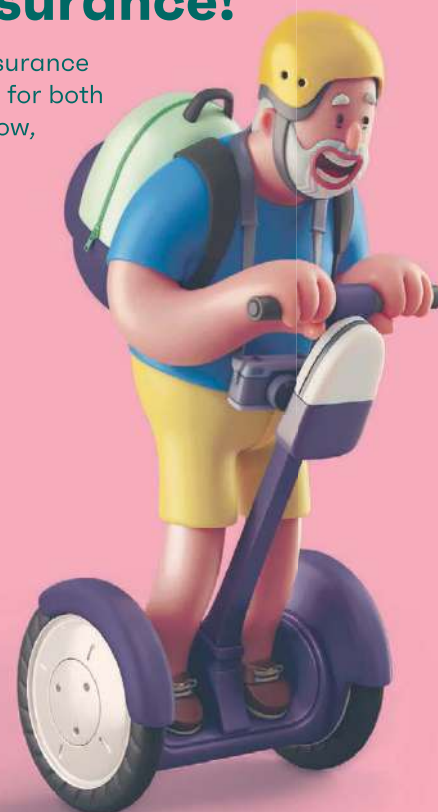
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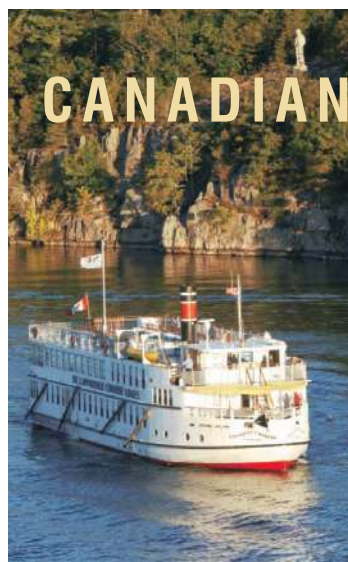
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Flights & Overseas Holidays

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Direct flights, 5★ all inclusive beach resort and private transfers

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- Gym • Free wi-fi

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Dreams Macao Beach, Punta Cana, Dominican Republic

 7 nights from **£1,479^{*}**

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Save 10% at 5* Hard Rock Hotel at Universal

Show-stopping service, awesome amenities and first class food are all on demand to help you experience life like a living legend. With a palm-lined swimming pool, rock memorabilia and even underwater music, this is a great choice.

5 nts fr £1,359pp Inc flights

JAPAN

Save 10% on this self-guided tour

Begin in bustling Tokyo where you can explore the bright lights, then take in the gorgeous nature of Hakone,

gateway to Mount Fuji, before ending in culture-rich Kyoto, with its vast array of temples, towers and castles. You'll also spend a night in a Ryokan, a traditional inn with hot springs and fantastic local food.

8 nights fr £2,239pp Inc flights

THAILAND

Save 30% + transfers at the Amari Phuket

Located on a secluded area of Patong Beach overlooking beautiful turquoise waters, discover your very own slice of paradise. Relax in spacious accommodation based around a traditional Thai home, complete with sea views from floor to ceiling windows or private balconies. There's a kaleidoscope of culinary experiences with each restaurant having a beachside view plus a stunning spa.

7 nights fr £1,095pp Inc flights



LANZAROTE

Save 15% at the 5* Secrets Resort & Spa

A tranquil adult escape to the beautiful Puerto Calero Marina of the Canary Islands. An inviting getaway to guests who are seeking romantic views overlooking the deep blue ocean of the Atlantic.



7 nights fr £689pp Inc flights

RAS AL KHAIMAH

Save 35% on HB at the 5* InterContinental

Escape to the exquisite landscape and hospitality of InterContinental Ras Al Khaimah Mina Al Arab Resort. There are a variety of restaurants and bars available, along

with spa options and activities for the energetic.



5 nights fr £1,155pp Inc flights

CYPRUS

Save 10% at the 5* Annabelle Hotel

Close to the picturesque fishing harbour of Paphos, Annabelle is a delightful hotel with lush gardens overlooking the beach. Wake up in a classically Mediterranean white bedroom or lounge by the infinity pools in the warm Cyprus sun.



5 nights fr £479pp Inc flights

EXCLUSIVE HOTEL OFFERS WITH FLIGHTS INCLUDED

ANTIGUA

Save 30% HB

Set in a sweeping bay with a backdrop of rolling hills and lush tropical rainforest, the 5* Carlisle Bay is an exciting resort on the unspoiled south coast, bringing chic contemporary luxury to the beach.

7 nights fr £2,569pp Inc flights



MALDIVES

Save 35% HB

On the perfect island of Maagu in the Dhaalu Atoll, surrounded by tropical beauty, the 5* Baglioni Resort is a heavenly destination, featuring a choice of charming villas which draw inspiration from Italian design.

7 nights fr £3,479pp Inc flights



BARBADOS

Save 50% AI

The chic 5* O2 Beach Club is Barbados' newest luxury boutique resort. This tropical paradise offers pure comfort on a 1,000ft powder white beach fringing the incredible turquoise waters of the sea.

7 nights fr £2,459pp Inc flights



MAURITIUS

Save 25% HB

Enjoy renowned Asian hospitality at the 5* Shangri-La Le Touessrok. Nestled along an untouched stretch of coastline, this 5* resort brings stylish design and refined luxury together with fabulous views.

7 nights fr £1,875pp Inc flights



MALDIVES

Save 25% HB

Escape to a true island getaway and surround yourself with the wonders of the Indian Ocean at the One & Only Reethi Rah, peacefully perched on one of the largest islands in North Male Atoll.

7 nights fr £5,299pp Inc flights



SEYCHELLES

Save £300

Located next to Maie Lazare Beach, the 5* Kempinski Seychelles Resort sits in a palm fringed bay where you can spot turtles in the crystal clear waters. There are 4 restaurants and every kind of sport available.

7 nights fr £1,549pp Inc flights



MEXICO

Save 20% AI

5* Atelier Playa Mujeres is an all inclusive resort for adults over 16 years, inspired by the art and design of contemporary Mexico. With a wide range of excellent dining and leisure activities as well as a luxurious spa.

7 nights fr £2,425pp Inc flights

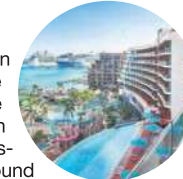


THE BAHAMAS

Save 20%

There's lots of fun to be had at the 5* Margaritaville Beach Resort in the heart of Nassau. Splash around the lazy river and Fins Up Water Park, or test your balance on the SurfStream®.

7 nights fr £1,899pp Inc flights



Flyaway favourites. 10 great ideas for a sunshine getaway

THIS week we have offers to Caribbean hot-spots and popular American cities, including Disney delights in Orlando, beautiful beaches in Barbados, star spotting in Los Angeles and all inclusive activities in Antigua.

And before you give us a call, check out our amazing reviews on Trustpilot, where 98 per cent of our customers say they would book with us again.

- 1 BARBADOS Save 40% on all inclusive**
Sandals Royal Barbados
7 nights fr **£2,519pp** Inc flights
- 2 JAMAICA Save 40% on all inclusive**
Sandals Montego Bay
7 nights fr **£2,369pp** Inc flights
- 3 FLORIDA Save 10% in a 2 bed suite**
WorldQuest Resort, Orlando
7 nights fr **£689pp** Inc flights



Royalton Grenada Resort

- 4 GRENADA Save 30% on all inclusive**
Royalton Grenada Resort
7 nights fr **£1,595pp** Inc flights
- 5 ANTIGUA Save 25% on all inclusive**
The Verandah Resort & Spa
7 nights fr **£1,375pp** Inc flights
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Caribbean Cruise
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7 nights fr **£2,915pp** Inc flights
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Loews Hollywood
3 nights fr **£899pp** Inc flights
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The Royal at Atlantis
7 nights fr **£1,769pp** Inc flights

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	ECONOMY	BUSINESS		ECONOMY	BUSINESS		ECONOMY	BUSINESS		ECONOMY	BUSINESS
Antigua	fr £495	fr £1999	Dubai	fr £435	fr £1345	Mauritius	fr £579	fr £1899	Seychelles	fr £589	fr £2129
Auckland	fr £975	fr £4435	Faro	fr £95	fr £259	Melbourne	fr £869	fr £3895	Singapore	fr £599	fr £2529
Bali	fr £699	fr £2909	Hong Kong	fr £519	fr £1699	Miami	fr £379	fr £1949	St Lucia	fr £589	fr £2495
Bangkok	fr £579	fr £1975	Jamaica	fr £649	fr £1899	New York	fr £349	fr £1639	Sydney	fr £899	fr £4239
Barbados	fr £515	fr £2159	Johannesburg	fr £515	fr £1929	Orlando	fr £339	fr £1889	Tenerife	fr £109	fr £505
Cancun	fr £399	fr £1699	Las Vegas	fr £499	fr £2149	Perth	fr £899	fr £3689	Toronto	fr £369	fr £1765
Cape Town	fr £529	fr £2219	Los Angeles	fr £399	fr £2349	Phuket	fr £685	fr £2569	Vancouver	fr £489	fr £2049
Cyprus	fr £99	fr £399	Maldives	fr £705	fr £2985	San Francisco	fr £389	fr £2149	Vietnam	fr £689	fr £2435

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THERE'S 5-star river cruising, and then there's truly all-inclusive, luxury 5-star river cruising, where more is included, and every experience is elevated.

Introducing Scenic — whose sailings are in a class of their own, with all details meticulously taken care of so you can focus on enjoying countless enriching moments.

On board a Space-Ship (maximum 163 passengers), expect impeccable service, inviting hospitality, world-class dining and luxury tailored to your every whim.

From a butler (inset right) who knows it's a glass of champagne in your spacious suite as the sun sets, to a choice of sophisticated dining venues where each dish is a taste sensation, your desires are taken care of to the 'Nth Degree'.

And with virtually everything included, from your delectable culinary journey to premium beverages, excursions, butler service, tipping and transfers, you could leave your wallet at home and not worry about a thing.

ENRICHING EVENTS

A SPECIAL highlight of this truly all-inclusive philosophy is Scenic Enrich, offering experiences that will raise your cultural discoveries to the realms of royalty.

In Vienna, stirring strings sing out the genius of Mozart or Strauss, as the mellifluous music echoes around the stone walls of the opulent Palais Liechtenstein.

Royals and nobles sat where you are now, moved as you are by the same soaring arrangement. Tonight, the palace is yours, reserved exclusively by Scenic.

Or you might be heading to 18th-century Rastatt Palace or the medieval Pope's Palace in Avignon — making memories

IN A CLASS OF ITS OWN



SAVOUR A EUROPEAN RIVER CRUISE TAILORED TO YOUR EVERY WHIM

that, like those majestic walls, will stand the test of time. More than fine dining, eating on board an innovative Space-Ship is a full epicurean experience, with up to five sophisticated dining venues to experience.

In fact, every meal (inset above) is a celebration, with a cornucopia of choice crafted by inspired chefs using fresh local ingredients. What's more, premium beverages are available all day and not just at mealtimes.

Sightseeing? Choose from care-

fully curated guided excursions and immersive experiences, or personalise your river cruise and pursue your own interests at a pace that suits you.

Perhaps opt for a relaxing wellness experience one day and a vibrant cultural event the next, all included in the price, of course.

You could use the Scenic Tailormade app as your personal handheld escort if exploring by foot or complimentary e-bike.

And when it comes to well-being, you can also customise

your time with a choice of healthy meals, stretching classes, walks on the sun deck or unwinding in the new Salt Therapy Lounge.

WORLD-CLASS TEAM

A SHOWREEL of grand palaces, fairytale-like castles and even seasonal Christmas markets unfurls as the Rhine, Main and Danube (pictured) rivers meander through forested hillsides, idyllic vineyards and romantic towns.

The banks of Portugal's unforgettable Douro river are peppered

TRULY ALL-INCLUSIVE

- RETURN flights from up to 16 UK airports or travel via Eurostar Standard Premier Class**.
- SPACIOUS Balcony Suites with innovative Scenic Sun Lounge.
- BUTLER service for every suite with complimentary minibar restocked daily.
- EXCLUSIVE Scenic Enrich experiences.
- PERSONALISE your cruise with Scenic Freechoice activities.
- INNOVATIVE Salt Therapy Lounge*, plus fitness and wellness area.
- COMPLIMENTARY e-bikes and Scenic Tailormade App.
- RETURN airport transfers.
- ALL tipping and gratuities.

with World Heritage-listed sites. Or sample the delights of France on the Seine, Saône and Rhône in 2023, perhaps tasting the gourmet offerings in Lyon, food capital of France, and immersing yourself in the famous Burgundy wine region.

Your truly all-inclusive, 5-star luxury river cruise with Scenic will be a seamless journey you'll savour from start to finish.

Look forward to enriching experiences, exquisite cuisine, indulgent wellness and a world-class team who will anticipate your every need — or a journey where '5-star' river cruising means so much more. For further information and to book, call 0808 239 7523 or visit scenic.co.uk.

Flights & Overseas Holidays

SAVE UP TO £2,000 per couple*

+

FREE PRIVATE DOOR-TO-DOOR TRANSFERS*

5-STAR LUXURY RIVER CRUISES

Set sail in 2023 from just £1,440[†] per person.

Discover the enchanting waterways of Europe on a truly all-inclusive river cruise. Delve into the rich history, exquisite cuisine, unique cultures, and immersive experiences at the very heart of these extraordinary regions. When you travel with Scenic, the experience is in a class of its own. It's more than personalised travel, it's our guests' desires taken care of to the Nth Degree.

Experience the ultimate in small ship river cruising and **save up to £2,000 per couple***, plus you'll enjoy **FREE Private Door-to-Door Transfers*** when you book by **28 September 2022**. What's more, **save an additional 10%** with our Super Earlybird Offer*. Call us today on **0808 239 7523** to speak to our experts about your 2023 Europe river cruise, and experience the Scenic Difference for yourself. We look forward to welcoming you on board.



SMALL SHIP CRUISING



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5-Day Tastes of Imperial Europe

Budapest > Vienna

Departs April & September 2023

Cruise from £1,440 per person[†]



11-Day South of France

Lyon > Lyon

Departs April - October 2023

Cruise from £3,545 per person[†]



15-Day Jewels of Europe

Amsterdam > Budapest

Departs March - November 2023

Cruise from £3,715 per person[†]

Truly all-inclusive

- Return flights from up to 16 UK airports or travel via Eurostar Standard Premier Class**
- Spacious Balcony Suites with innovative Scenic Sun Lounge
- Butler service for every suite with full mini-bar restocked daily
- All meals and complimentary beverages all day every day[†]
- Exclusive Scenic Enrich experiences
- Personalise your cruise with Scenic Freechoice activities
- Innovative Salt Therapy Lounge* plus fitness and wellness area
- Complimentary e-bikes and Scenic Tailormade App*
- Return airport transfers

And all tipping and gratuities

Call 0808 239 7523 or book online at scenic.co.uk

Terms and Conditions: Offers are valid for new bookings only made before 28 September 2022. *Maximum saving of £2,000 per couple across Rhine, Main & Danube, £1,400 per couple across France and £800 per couple across Douro itineraries. Prices shown are subject to availability. †£1,440pp based on Tastes of Imperial Europe sailing 04/04/23. ‡£3,545pp based on South of France sailing 20/10/23. §£3,715pp based on Jewels of Europe sailing 08/11/23. *Private door-to-door transfers are complimentary within 75-miles of an airport where flights are available from. For guests who live outside of 75 miles, an additional supplement of £2.00 per mile will be charged. ‡Super Earlybird Offer only applicable when cruise is paid for in full 12 months prior to departure and applicable to the cruise element only, offer is valid for new bookings only and is available on all cabin grades. Super Earlybird Offer is included in prices shown. †Not available on all ships. ‡Except for a very small number of fine and vintage wines, champagnes and spirits. **Subject to destination and availability. We reserve the right to withdraw offers and promotions at any time and these are only applicable to residents of the UK. Full itineraries and booking conditions can be found at scenic.co.uk/terms-and-conditions E&OE.



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16 nights from
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You can lounge and laze or enjoy active nights and days on a cruise to some of the world's most spectacular destinations on the beautiful *Island Princess*[®]. With serene and elegant spaces to relax and enjoy some quality quiet time, as well as great activities and entertainment for all ages, this ship is an excellent choice for either a romantic getaway or a fantastic family holiday.

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Explore Italian Cities

Italian cities are some of the most beautiful in the world. You'll be enraptured by their rich ancient history, world-renowned art scene, mouth-watering cuisine, delectable wines and indelible charm.

16 Nights | Departing 30 October 2023

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Rail Journey

2 day full-board luxury Venice Simplon-Orient-Express train journey from Venice to Paris:

- Dedicated steward service
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- Enjoy views of the snow-peaked Swiss Alps during your journey

Standard Premier Eurostar rail journey from Paris to London

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10 night full-board cruise on board *Island Princess*[®]. Visiting: Southampton, La Coruña, Gibraltar, Cartagena, Palma de Mallorca, Palermo (Sicily), Salerno, Civitavecchia (Rome)

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1 night four-star hotel stay in Rome at the Le Méridien Visconti
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Embrace a relaxing no-fly cruise taking in the many delights peppered along the Mediterranean coast, paired with captivating hotel stays in Rome, Florence & Venice and an opulent journey on board the renowned Venice Simplon-Orient-Express.

Sailing from Southampton to Rome on board the graceful *Island Princess*[®], is how your holiday begins; enjoy pampering treatments in the Lotus Spa[®], fantastic live entertainment and gourmet cuisine during your voyage.

You'll delight in calls to some of Spain's most beautiful ports including La Coruña, rich in Galician heritage and history. Here, you'll discover monumental landmarks such as the Tower of Hercules alongside a collection of beautiful bays and during a visit to Mallorca's chic Palma you could explore Medieval streets and sampling tasty tapas in the authentic bars that line them. Italy is next on your agenda, where art and life intermingle effortlessly in Sicily's Palermo.

Your Mediterranean cruise completes in Civitavecchia, and you'll transfer to Rome for an overnight hotel stay. During your time here, immerse yourself in the city's ancient heart and explore the expanse of St Peter's Square. Surrounded by idyllic vineyards and enveloped by architecture that spans hundreds of years, Florence is an ideal city to lose yourself in during a two-night hotel stay. Discover the romance of Venice during a two-night hotel stay before boarding one of the most iconic train journeys in the world, the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express. Gliding into Paris, you'll then embark the Eurostar to London filled with wonderful memories to treasure.



Luxury rail journey Venice Simplon-Orient-Express

One of the most iconic train journeys in the world, the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express is a work of art. Harking back to a more elegant age of travel, you'll journey through the countryside in original 1920s carriages, featuring Lalique glass panels, wood marquetry and wood burning stoves. A sequence of unforgettable moments, barely changed by time, make this voyage one of the world's finest travel experiences, admired by many but enjoyed by few.



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Discover Iceland's majestic shores as you explore this northern isle's coastal towns. Encounter unparalleled natural beauty and witness cascading waterfalls amid pristine fjord landscapes. Discover Viking heritage as you follow in the footsteps of intrepid explorer Leif Eriksson. Or observe the wealth of wildlife, from puffins to the gentle giants of the sea. Join us for a truly immersive experience that brings you closer to nature and all her splendour.

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- Free Wi-Fi onboard*
- Access to top-rated spa & fitness centre
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ICELAND'S NATURAL BEAUTY – 8 DAYS, 6 GUIDED TOURS

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Day 4	Akureyri, Iceland
Day 5	Seydisfjörður, Iceland
Day 6	Djúpivogur, Iceland
Day 7	Westman Islands (Heimaey), Iceland
Day 8	Reykjavík, Iceland



Call now on 020 8780 6548 or book online at [viking.com](https://www.viking.com)

*Connection speed may vary. Prices correct at time of going to print but are subject to availability and change. From prices are per person and based on two people sharing the lowest grade stateroom available. Single supplements 100%. These cruises are only available to guests who will have been fully vaccinated at least 14 days prior to departure. Some countries may require a negative COVID-19 test to enter. You must have travel insurance that includes COVID-19 cover. For the latest updates on our Health & Safety programme please visit [Viking.com](https://www.viking.com). The UK Government list of countries where travel is permitted to can change on a regular basis and at short notice. Viking cannot be held responsible if at any point before or during travel the advice changes which then requires guests to quarantine on their return. The Department of Transport and The Foreign and Commonwealth Office have also issued advice which applies to cruises. If UK Government regulations or guidance prohibit or further restrict travel either within the UK or abroad, then we may similarly have to cancel planned cruises, or amend itineraries or other conditions for travel at short or no notice. Please refer to paragraph H.1 [and B2] in our Booking Terms and Conditions on our website [viking.com](https://www.viking.com) for further information as to our cancellation policies in these circumstances.



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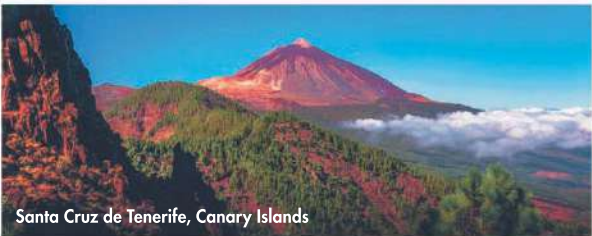
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Based on 26 January 2023 sailing

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*New qualifying bookings made for any open for sale 3+ night sailings made between 16 September and 19 September 2022 for individual FIT reservations and new created qualifying groups (delegates with names) for all stateroom categories. Cannot be held as a new or existing traditional or group block (except 40% discount). Not applicable to affinity / FS group types (except 40% discount). Free at Sea upgrade charge depends on cruise length – £199pp for cruises of 9-11 days. 3rd and 4th guest pay taxes only available on select sailings, and only valid where 1st and 2nd guests on booking pay full fare. 40% cruise and fly-cruise discount apply to total cruise only fare and flight cost of all guests subject to exceptions below. All offers: limits, conditions, restrictions and exclusions apply. Offers not applicable to charter or inaugural sailings. Single occupants paying 200% of voyage fare qualify. New individual FIT reservations cannot be moved into an existing speculative / traditional / gross group. Cannot be held as a group block and is not combinable with Interline or net rates. Offer is capacity controlled and can be withdrawn at any time. **Lead prices are shown in £GBP and based on cruise only, dual occupancy including government taxes, port expenses and fees. NCL reserves the right to correct any errors, inaccuracies or omissions and to change or update fares, fees and surcharges at any time without prior notice. Government taxes, port expenses & fees, general excise tax (GET), discretionary onboard service charges and gratuities additional. Offers non-transferable, non-refundable, have no monetary value and cannot be substituted or customised. Offers and combinability subject to availability, capacity and change or withdrawal at any time. Full terms and booking conditions available at [ncl.com](https://www.ncl.com). NCL (Bahamas) Ltd, UK Office, Mountbatten House, Grosvenor Square, Southampton, SO15 2JU. ©2022 NCL Corporation Ltd. Ships' Registry: Bahamas and USA. 627515 09/22



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The Mediterranean 29 October 2022 14 Nights Ventura Southampton - La Coruna - Porto (Leixoes) - Seville (Cadiz) - Gibraltar - Valencia - Cartagena - Tangiers - Southampton (N230)	Inside £674 Seaview £867 Balcony £1,089 Deluxe Balcony £1,543	The Canaries & Madeira ✈️ 18, 19, 25, 26 Nov, 2, 3, 9, 10 Dec 2022 7 Nights Azura Fly UK/Tenerife - Madeira - Gran Canaria - Lanzarote - Tenerife/Fly UK	NF Seaview £529 LF Seaview £606 Balcony £771 Deluxe Balcony £964	The Mediterranean 30 April 2023 14 Nights Arvia Southampton - La Coruna - Mallorca -Florence/ Pisa (La Spezia) - Marseilles - Barcelona - Seville (Cadiz) - Southampton (K309)	Inside £867 LC Seaview £1,195 Balcony £1,639 CW Conservatory Mini Suite £2,228
{ Limited Space }		{ Fares based on 18 Nov 22 }		{ New Ship }	
The Mediterranean 29 October 2022 14 Nights Iona Southampton - Vigo - Malaga - Alicante - Barcelona (overnight) - Seville (Cadiz) - Lisbon - Southampton (G236)	Inside £722 Seaview £915 Balcony £964 Conservatory Mini Suite £1,446	The Christmas Canaries & Madeira 🌲 17 December 2022 16 Nights Iona Southampton - Madeira - Tenerife - Gran Canaria - Fuerteventura - Lanzarote - Seville (Cadiz) - Lisbon - Vigo - Southampton (G240)	Inside £1,253 Seaview £1,832 GF Balcony £1,832 Conservatory Mini Suite £3,280	The Norwegian Fjords 13,20,27 May, 3,10,27,24 Jun, 1,8,15,22,29 Jul,5,12,19 Aug 2023 7 Nights Iona Southampton - Stavanger - Olden - Alesund - Haugesund - Southampton	Inside £578 Seaview £867 GF Balcony £964 Conservatory Mini Suite £1,591
{ Limited Space }		{ New Ship - Limited Space }		{ New Ship - Fares based on 13 May 23 & vary by date }	
The Canaries & Madeira ✈️ 4, 11, 18, 25 Nov, 9 Dec 2022, 6, 13, 20, 27 Jan, 10, 24 Feb, 10 Mar 2023 7 Nights Azura Fly UK/Tenerife (overnight) - Madeira - La Palma - Fuerteventura - Tenerife/Fly UK	NF Seaview £529 LF Seaview £626 Balcony £771 Deluxe Balcony £964	The Christmas Canaries & Madeira ✈️ 🌲 17 December 2022 14 Nights Azura Fly UK/Tenerife - Madeira - Gran Canaria - Lanzarote - Tenerife (overnight) - Madeira - La Palma - Fuerteventura - Tenerife (overnight)/Fly UK (A230C)	Inside £1,253 Seaview £1,446 Balcony £1,736 Deluxe Balcony £2,122	The Mediterranean 23 July, 6 August 2023 14 Nights Arvia Southampton - La Coruna - Valencia - Marseilles - Barcelona - Alicante - Seville (Cadiz) - Southampton (K315 & K316)	Inside £1,224 LC Seaview £1,736 Balcony £1,909 Conservatory Mini Suite £2,681
{ Fares based on 25 Nov 22 & vary by date }		{ Limited Space }		{ New Ship - Fares based on 6 Aug 23 & vary by date }	
The Canaries & Madeira 12 Nov 2022, 14 Jan, 18 Mar 2023 14 Nights Iona Southampton - Madeira - Tenerife - Gran Canaria - Lanzarote - Seville (Cadiz) - Lisbon (overnight) - Southampton (G237, G302 & G307)	PE Inside £944 Seaview £1,205 Balcony £1,243 Conservatory Mini Suite £2,093	The Mediterranean 2 January 2023 12 Nights Iona Southampton - Gibraltar - Alicante - Barcelona - Seville (Cadiz) - Lisbon - Southampton (G301)	Inside £674 Seaview £819 GF Balcony £867 Conservatory Mini Suite £1,350	The Mediterranean 20 August 2023 14 Nights Arvia Southampton - La Coruna - Valencia - Marseilles - Barcelona - Alicante - Seville (Cadiz) - Southampton (K317)	Inside £1,089 LC Seaview £1,494 Balcony £1,736 CY Conservatory Mini Suite £2,652
{ Fares based on 18 Mar 23 & vary by date }		{ New Ship }		{ New Ship }	

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SPAIN, FRANCE & PORTUGAL

1 APRIL 2023, 14 NIGHTS, SKY PRINCESS

Southampton > Vigo > Lisbon > Seville (Cadiz) > Malaga > Cartagena > Gibraltar > Bilbao > La Rochelle > Southampton (Y313)

£1005 INSIDE **£1289** BALCONY **£1337** DELUXE BALCONY

THE BRITISH ISLES

30 APRIL 2023, 8 NIGHTS, REGAL PRINCESS

Southampton > Portland > Guernsey (St. Peter Port) > Cork (Cobh) > Glasgow (Greenock) > Holyhead > Southampton (G318N)

£556 INSIDE **£746** BALCONY **£794** DELUXE BALCONY

SPAIN, FRANCE & THE CHANNEL ISLANDS

6 MAY 2023, 7 NIGHTS, SKY PRINCESS

Southampton > Guernsey (St. Peter Port) > La Rochelle > Bilbao > La Coruna > Southampton (Y315)

£697 IB INSIDE **£858** BD BALCONY **£953** DELUXE BALCONY

ICELAND & NORWAY

13 MAY 2023, 14 NIGHTS, SKY PRINCESS

Southampton > Skjolden/Sognefjord > Olden > Alesund > Akureyri > Isafjordur > Grundarfjordur > Reykjavik > Southampton (Y316)

£1051 INSIDE **£1621** BALCONY **£1811** DELUXE BALCONY

THE NORWEGIAN FJORDS

12 AUGUST 2023, 7 NIGHTS, SKY PRINCESS

Southampton > Haugesund > Skjolden > Olden > Bergen > Southampton (Y324)

£762 INSIDE **£981** BALCONY **£1027** DELUXE BALCONY

A TASTE OF THE CONTINENT

11 OCTOBER 2022, 5 NIGHTS, SPIRIT OF DISCOVERY

Dover > Ijmuiden (Amsterdam) > Rotterdam > Zeebrugge (Bruges) > Dover

£1176 BALCONY GUARANTEE **£2190** DELUXE BALCONY **£2311** MIDSHIP SUITE

{ All Inclusive }

FLAVOURS OF THE WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN

31 OCTOBER 2022, 15 NIGHTS, SPIRIT OF DISCOVERY

Southampton > Lisbon > Cartagena > Valencia > Barcelona > Sete > Roses > Gibraltar > Southampton

£3440 BALCONY GUARANTEE **£6774** DELUXE BALCONY **£7999** MIDSHIP SUITE

{ All Inclusive }

THE GLORIOUS CANARY ISLANDS

4 NOVEMBER 2022, 15 NIGHTS, SPIRIT OF ADVENTURE

Southampton > Cadiz > Lanzarote > Gran Canaria > Fuerteventura > Tenerife > La Palma > Madeira > Southampton

£3494 BALCONY GUARANTEE **£6139** DELUXE BALCONY **£7955** MIDSHIP SUITE

{ New Ship - All Inclusive }

CANARY ISLAND EXPLORER

15 FEBRUARY 2023, 13 NIGHTS, SPIRIT OF ADVENTURE

Portsmouth > Lisbon > Lanzarote > Gran Canaria > Tenerife > La Palma > Madeira > Portsmouth

£3884 BALCONY **£5290** DELUXE BALCONY **£6599** MIDSHIP SUITE

{ New Ship - All Inclusive }

HIDDEN GEMS OF THE BRITISH ISLES

26 MAY 2023, 10 NIGHTS, SPIRIT OF ADVENTURE

Dover > Invergordon > Stornoway > Oban > Belfast > Douglas > St. Mary's > Dover

£3099 BALCONY **£5221** DELUXE BALCONY **£6044** MIDSHIP SUITE

{ New Ship - All Inclusive }

ISLANDS OF THE WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN

6 JULY 2023, 15 NIGHTS, SPIRIT OF ADVENTURE

Dover > Cadiz > Mahon > Ajaccio > Olbia > Cagliari > Lisbon > Dover

£4880 BALCONY **£6750** DELUXE BALCONY **£7959** MIDSHIP SUITE

{ New Ship - All Inclusive }

CELESTIAL CANARY ISLANDS

25 JANUARY 2023, 14 NIGHTS, SPIRIT OF ADVENTURE

Portsmouth > El Ferrol > Lanzarote > Gran Canaria > Tenerife > La Gomera > La Palma > Madeira > Portsmouth

£3908 BALCONY **£5549** DELUXE BALCONY **£7018** MIDSHIP SUITE

{ New Ship - All Inclusive }

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Departs from: London Tilbury

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Cape Town, South Africa

Cruise Highlights

South Pacific

Visit six Robinson Crusoe-like Islands with dramatic waterfalls and timeless valleys as you lose yourself in a South Sea islands paradise.

Australia

Sydney's iconic Opera House, Harbour Bridge and more await.

Singapore

With its futuristic architecture and high-speed efficiency, Singapore is an oriental star. Step back and discover its rich history and culture.

Kenya

Why not take an optional overnight trip to the Tsavo National Park, home to the largest protected area in Kenya and herds of dust-red elephants, rhino, lions and hippos?

Day	Port	Country	Arrive	Depart	Stay
1	London Tilbury	UK		17:00	
2	Rotterdam	Netherlands	08:00	16:00	8h
5	Leixoes, for Oporto	Portugal	08:00	17:00	9h
8	Ponta Delgada	Azores	08:00	17:00	9h
15	Bridgetown	Barbados	08:00	17:00	9h
17	Willemstad	Curacao	07:00	15:00	8h
19	San Blas Islands	Panama	08:00	18:00	10h
20	Transit the Panama Canal				
24	At sea - crossing the Equator				
30	Nuku Hiva	French Polynesia	09:00	20:00	11h
33	Papeete, Tahiti	French Polynesia	07:00	20:00	13h
34	Bora Bora	French Polynesia	08:00	20:00	12h
35	Huahine, Maroe Bay	French Polynesia	06:00	17:00	11h
37	Rarotonga	Cook Islands	08:00	23:00	15h
40	At sea - crossing the International Date Line				
41	Nuku Alofa	Kingdom of Tonga	08:00	18:00	10h
45	Auckland	New Zealand	07:00	21:00	14h
46	Bay of Islands	New Zealand	08:00	20:00	12h
50	Sydney	Australia	06:00	20:00	14h
52	Melbourne	Australia	11:00	19:00	8h
54	Adelaide	Australia	11:00	19:00	8h
58	Fremantle, for Perth	Australia	09:00	20:00	11h
63	Lombok	Indonesia	07:00	15:00	8h
66	Singapore	Singapore	09:00	23:00	14h
68	Penang	Malaysia	08:00	18:00	10h
69	Phuket	Thailand	08:00	23:00	15h
73	Colombo	Sri Lanka	07:00	22:00	15h
75	Male	Maldives	07:00	20:00	13h
77	At sea - crossing the Equator				
79	Victoria, Mahe	Seychelles	08:00	16:00	8h
82	Mombasa	Kenya	07:00		
83	Mombasa	Kenya		18:00	35h
88	Durban	South Africa	09:00	20:00	11h
91	Cape Town	South Africa	07:00	23:00	16h
96	Tristan da Cunha	Tristan da Cunha	08:00	17:00	9h
101	Rio de Janeiro	Brazil	09:00	23:59	15h
104	Salvador	Brazil	08:00	20:00	12h
106	Recife	Brazil	06:00	16:00	10h
112	Mindelo, Sao Vicente	Cape Verde Islands	07:00	14:00	7h
116	Casablanca, for Marrakesh	Morocco	08:00	22:00	14h
118	Lisbon	Portugal	07:00	14:00	7h
121	London Tilbury	UK	09:00		

Days not shown are spent relaxing at sea. Land by launch or tender.



Phuket, Thailand



Ambience

	Twin Cabins				Single Cabins	
	Inside fr.£pp	Outside fr.£pp	Balcony fr.£pp	Suite fr.£pp	Inside fr.£pp	Balcony fr.£pp
Launch Fare	9,269	10,659	18,539	26,069	Wait List	28,769
Ambassador Fare	12,833	14,223	22,103	29,633	Wait List	32,243

Can't manage the full four-month voyage? Why not consider one of our World Cruise Sectors.



OUR OFFERS

Ambassador Fares

- Save up to 15% off full fares with our all-inclusive Ambassador Fares
- Includes Expedition Drinks Package (with additional 20% discount), which includes:
 - All gratuities & service charges
 - Premium wines, spirits from the bar, premium teas & speciality coffees
 - Guaranteed dinner sitting*
- Priority for complimentary cabin upgrades*

Launch Fares

- Save up to 15% off Full Fares
- 20% off Explorer Drinks Package, which includes:
 - All gratuities & service charges
 - House brand spirits and wines by the glass
 - 50% discount on premium beverages from the bar

Essex Cricket

Essex County Cricket Club Ticket Offer

Book any launch fare and you can receive a ticket for each guest booked to watch Essex in a LV= Insurance County Championship or Royal London Cup fixture at The Cloud County Ground, Chelmsford.*



- Refund Guarantee*
- Book with just a deposit, then nothing to pay up until 90 days before sailing
- Financial protection insurance in place to cover all guests' bookings
- Money held in a trust account until you sail
- Enhanced Health & Safety protocols

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- We offer a special programme of events, including a welcome cocktail party.

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DATE	ITINERARY	SAILING FROM	NTS	SHIP	CRUISE ID	PRICES FROM PER PERSON	SPECIAL OFFERS
23rd Sep 2022	France Short Break	Dover	4	Balmoral	L2227	£299*	Hurry! Sailing Soon
27th Sep 2022	Cultural Icons of Italy	Dover	15	Bolette	T2224	£999*	With code SAVE
12th Oct 2022	Cultural Spain & Portugal	Dover	9	Bolette	T2225	£549*	
4th Nov 2022	In Search of the Northern Lights	Dover	14	Balmoral	L2230	£1,099*	With code SAVE
5th Dec 2022	River Cities & German Christmas Markets	Liverpool	9	Borealis	S2231	£699*	
14th Dec 2022	Festive Spanish City Break	Liverpool	8	Borealis	S2232	£599*	
3rd Jan 2023	Winter Warmth in the Canaries	Southampton	14	Bolette	T2301	£1,599	Free Drinks
5th Jan 2023	Borealis Searches for the Northern Lights	Liverpool	15	Borealis	S2301	£1,999	Free Drinks
17th Jan 2023	Mediterranean Islands with Cyprus	Southampton	19	Bolette	T2302	£2,099	Door-to-Door
3rd Feb 2023	Civilisations of Cape Verde & Morocco	Liverpool	18	Borealis	S2303	£2,299	Door-to-Door
5th Feb 2023	Wintertime Norwegian Fjords	Southampton	6	Bolette	T2303	£749	Free Drinks
27th Mar 2023	Uncrowded Iceland	Newcastle	10	Bolette	T2307	£1,499	Free Drinks
22nd May 2023	Renaissance Italy, the Adriatic & Amalfi Coast	Liverpool	25	Borealis	S2309	£3,999	Door-to-Door



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£1,699**

CANARY ISLANDS

12 NIGHTS • APR/AUG/SEP 2023 • MSC VIRTUOSA
FREE UPGRADE FROM INSIDE TO BALCONY

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| 01. Southampton, UK | 06. Funchal, Madeira | 10. Leisure at sea |
| 02. Leisure at sea | 07. Gran Canaria, Canary Islands | 11. Vigo, Spain |
| 03. Leisure at sea | 08. Tenerife, Canary Islands | 12. Leisure at sea |
| 04. Lisbon (Cascais), Portugal | 09. Lanzarote, Canary Islands | 13. Southampton, UK |
| 05. Leisure at sea | | |

DATE	INSIDE	OUTSIDE	BALCONY	AUREA	YACHT CLUB SUITE
30 APR	£1,699	£1,699	£1,699	£2,129	£4,059
12 AUG	£1,969	£1,969	£1,969	£2,389	£4,169
09 SEP*	£1,759	£1,759	£1,759	£2,149	£4,019

*Itinerary is based on 30 April, call for other dates. *9 Sep is 14 nights, please call for more detail.

**7
NIGHTS
FROM ONLY
£949**

NORWEGIAN FJORDS

7 NIGHTS • MAY/AUG/SEP 2023 • MSC VIRTUOSA
FREE UPGRADE FROM INSIDE TO BALCONY

- | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| 01. Southampton, UK | 04. Olden, Norway | 07. Leisure at sea |
| 02. Leisure at sea | 05. Flaam, Norway | |
| 03. Haugesund, Norway | 06. Kristiansand, Norway | 08. Southampton, UK |

DATE	INSIDE	OUTSIDE	BALCONY	AUREA	YACHT CLUB SUITE
12 MAY	£949	£949	£949	£1,209	£2,519
19 MAY	£949	£949	£949	£1,209	£2,469
26 AUG	£1,199	£1,199	£1,199	£1,459	£2,519
02 SEP	£1,049	£1,049	£1,049	£1,309	£2,469

*Itinerary is based on 12/19 May, call for other dates.

**14
NIGHTS
FROM ONLY
£1,979**

MEDITERRANEAN

14 NIGHTS • JULY/SEP 2023 • MSC VIRTUOSA
FREE UPGRADE FROM INSIDE TO BALCONY

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|
| 01. Southampton, UK | 06. Alicante, Spain | 11. Leisure at sea |
| 02. Leisure at sea | 07. Palma de Mallorca, Spain | 12. Leisure at sea |
| 03. Leisure at sea | 08. Leisure at sea | 13. La Coruna, Spain |
| 04. Cadiz (Seville), Spain | 09. Toulon, France | 14. Leisure at sea |
| 05. Malaga (Granada), Spain | 10. Barcelona, Spain | 15. Southampton, UK |

DATE	INSIDE	OUTSIDE	BALCONY	AUREA	YACHT CLUB SUITE
01 JUL	£1,979	£1,979	£1,979	£2,419	£4,289
15 JUL	£2,199	£2,199	£2,199	£2,689	£4,769
29 JUL	£2,299	£2,299	£2,299	£2,789	£4,869
30 SEP	£2,139	£2,139	£2,139	£2,689	£4,889

*Itinerary is based on 01/29 July, call for other dates. *30 Sep is 15 nights, please call for more detail.

**7
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FRANCE & SPAIN

7 NIGHTS • JUNE/OCT 2023 • MSC VIRTUOSA
FREE UPGRADE FROM INSIDE TO BALCONY

- | | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 01. Southampton, UK | 04. Bilbao, Spain | 07. Cherbourg, France |
| 02. Leisure at sea | 05. La Coruna, Spain | 08. Southampton, |
| 03. La Rochelle, France | 06. Leisure at sea | disembark |

DATE	INSIDE	OUTSIDE	BALCONY	AUREA	YACHT CLUB SUITE
17 JUN	£1,049	£1,049	£1,049	£1,309	£2,419
24 JUN	£1,079	£1,079	£1,079	£1,339	£2,399
15 OCT	£899	£899	£899	£1,159	£2,419

ICELAND & NORWAY • 14 NIGHTS • JUNE 2023 • MSC VIRTUOSA • FREE UPGRADE FROM INSIDE TO BALCONY


- | | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 01. Southampton, UK | 06. Isafjordur, Iceland | 11. Maloy, Norway |
| 02. Leisure at sea | 07. Reykjavik, Iceland | 12. Flaam, Norway |
| 03. Greenock (Glasgow), Scotland | 08. Leisure at sea | 13. Leisure at sea |
| 04. Stornoway, Scotland | 09. Leisure at sea | 14. Leisure at sea |
| 05. Leisure at sea | 10. Alesund, Norway | 15. Southampton, UK |

DATE	INSIDE	OUTSIDE	BALCONY	AUREA	YACHT CLUB SUITE
03 JUN	£2,199	£2,199	£2,199	£2,689	£4,769


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DAY 1	Fly Gatwick to Bridgetown, Barbados and transfer to port to join ship
DAY 2	Saint George, Grenada
DAY 3	Leisure at sea
DAY 4	Kingstown, St Vincent & The Grenadines
DAY 5	Fort de France, Martinique
DAY 6	Pointe-a-Pitre, Guadeloupe
DAY 7	Roseau, Dominica
DAY 8	Philipsburg, St. Maarten
DAY 9	At Sea
DAY 10	St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda
DAY 11	Basseterre, St Kitts & Nevis
DAY 12	Fort de France, Martinique
DAY 13	Pointe-a-Pitre, Guadeloupe
DAY 14	Castries, Saint Lucia
DAY 15	Bridgetown, Barbados disembark transfer to airport for overnight flight to Gatwick
DAY 16	Arrive UK

DATES	INSIDE	OUTSIDE	BALCONY
13 DEC 2022	£1,799	£2,099	£2,299
10 JAN 2023	SOLD	£2,289	£2,829
24 JAN 2023	£2,149	£2,349	£2,679
07 FEB 2023	£2,149	£2,449	£2,769
21 FEB 2023	£2,199	£2,399	£2,769
07 MAR 2023	£2,299	£2,599	£2,899
21 MAR 2023	£2,099	£2,299	£2,659

*Itinerary based on 24th January 2023, other dates vary. ** 21 March 2023 is 14 nights, missing the stop at Saint Lucia.

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- All Standard and Premium spirits
- Fresh fruit & vegetables cocktails
- Premium mineral water (75cl)

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26 NIGHTS DEPARTING 22ND JANUARY 2024

JANUARY 2024

- Mon 22 **Fly from London to Bali, Indonesia[>]**
- Tue 23 **Bali, Indonesia**
Upon arrival, transfer to a 4★ hotel* for your five-night stay, including breakfast
- Wed 24 - **Bali, Indonesia**
Sat 27 For the next four days you will have the opportunity to explore this incredible, enchanting destination. This island has it all: beautiful beaches, terraced rice fields and world-class dive sites. But what truly sets Bali apart from other tropical destinations is authentic Balinese tradition, and the villagers dedicated to celebrating it (B)
- Sun 28 **Bali, Indonesia**
Transfer to the port in Benoa and embark **Celebrity Millennium**® for your 11 night all-inclusive luxury Far East voyage (B)
- Mon 29 **Lombok, Indonesia**
- Tue 30 **Celukan Bawang, Bali, Indonesia**



Sat 10

held in The Grand Lobby, the Raffles Afternoon Tea is the perfect opportunity to savour finger sandwiches, housemade scones and cakes, and seasonal delicacies – all complemented by a curated collection of exquisite teas and champagnes. The remainder of the day is yours to spend as you wish (B, AT)



Singapore – Malé, Maldives

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your flight to Malé, Maldives. Upon arrival, transfer to the **Kuredu Island Resort** by sea plane for your six-night all-inclusive water bungalow stay

Sun 11 -
Thu 15

Kuredu Island Resort, Maldives ★All-inclusive Sangu Water Villa★

Situated above the crystalline waters of Kuredu, the Sangu Water Villas are an enchanting haven for your romantic retreat. Built on wooden stilts and connected by a walkway, the Sangu Water Villas feature a secluded veranda, perfect for breezy sunbathing and admiring crimson sunsets. The astounding interior together with the beautiful sundeck, perfect for sun and stargazing, provide unrivalled luxury hotel experience. Set nearby the island's marvellous sandbank, the villas not only enchant with their in-room features, but also with them being entrenched at what is often considered one of the Maldives' most jaw-dropping stretches of silky sand (B, L, D)

Fri 16

Malé, Maldives

Transfer to the airport by seaplane for your overnight flight to London[>]

Sat 17

Arrive in London

Dates not mentioned will be spent relaxing at sea. Meals are included during the tour as stated: B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner, AT = Afternoon Tea. All meals are included on the cruise.

FEBRUARY 2024

- Fri 2 **Kuala Lumpur (from Port Klang), Malaysia**
- Sat 3 - **Penang, Malaysia**
Sun 4 (arrive late am – overnight – depart late night)
- Mon 5 **Langkawi, Malaysia** (depart late night)
- Tue 6 **Phuket, Thailand**
- Thu 8 **Singapore**
Disembark and transfer to a 4★ hotel* for your two night stay, including breakfast
- Fri 9 **Singapore**
★Afternoon Tea at Raffles Hotel included★
Spend the morning at leisure before heading for signature Afternoon Tea at Raffles Hotel. Reminiscent of extravagant parties that were once

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- **FIVE-NIGHT 4★ hotel stay[†] in Bali, Indonesia, including breakfast**
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 - **EXCLUSIVE FREE** stateroom upgrades[^]
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 - Gratuities & Surf Wi-Fi for all bookings⁺⁺
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 - Exclusive entry to The Retreat® Sun Deck, exclusive lounge & private dining restaurant
- **TWO-NIGHT 4★ hotel stay[†] in Singapore, including breakfast**
 - Afternoon Tea at Raffles Hotel included for all bookings*
- **SIX-NIGHT all-inclusive water villa stay at the *Kuredu Island Resort*, Maldives[†]**
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The Grand Caribbean & New Orleans Arcadia 9 Nov 2022 40 nights	Southampton - Tenerife - Barbados - Bonaire - Curacao - Cartagena - Jamaica - Cozumel - New Orleans (overnight) - Miami - San Juan - St. Maarten - Ponta Delgada - Southampton (J221)	Inside from £3,183^{PP}	Seaview from £3,280^{PP}	Balcony from £3,859^{PP}	Roundtrip Southampton
The Grand Caribbean Aurora 11 Nov 2022 28 nights	Southampton - Madeira - Saint Maarten - Antigua - St. Kitts - Guadeloupe - St. Lucia - Grenada - Barbados - Praia da Vitoria - Southampton (R217)	Inside from £2,218^{PP}	Seaview from £2,894^{PP}	Balcony from £4,824^{PP}	Roundtrip Southampton
The Christmas Grand Caribbean Ventura 1 Dec 2022 35 nights	Southampton - Madeira - Barbados - St. Lucia - Grenada - Bonaire - Curacao - Aruba - Dominica - Guadeloupe - Antigua - St. Kitts - Tortola - Saint Maarten - Praia da Vitoria - Southampton (N233)	Inside from £2,604^{PP}	Seaview from £3,087^{PP}	Balcony from £3,859^{PP}	Roundtrip Southampton
The Christmas Caribbean Britannia 17 Dec 2022 14 nights	Fly UK/Barbados - Curacao - Grenada - St. Vincent - St. Lucia - St. Kitts & Nevis - Antigua - Saint Maarten - Barbados/Fly UK (B229A)	Inside from £2,006^{PP}	Balcony from £2,237^{PP}	Deluxe Balcony from £3,714^{PP}	Flights included Direct regional flights available
The Caribbean Transatlantic Arvia 6 Jan 2023 15 nights	Southampton - Tenerife - Saint Maarten - St. Kitts - St. Lucia - Barbados/Fly UK (K301)	Inside from £964^{PP}	Seaview from £1,272^{PP}	Balcony from £1,463^{PP}	Flights included Direct regional flights available
The Grand Caribbean Ventura 10 Jan 2023 28 nights	Southampton - Madeira - Saint Maarten - Antigua - St. Kitts - Guadeloupe - Grenada - St. Lucia - Barbados - Praia da Vitoria - Southampton (N302)	Inside from £2,206^{PP}	Balcony from £4,112^{PP}	Deluxe Balcony from £4,920^{PP}	Roundtrip Southampton
The Caribbean Arvia 21 Jan 2023 14 nights	Fly UK/Barbados - Curacao - Dominican Republic - St. Kitts - Antigua - Saint Maarten - Martinique - St. Lucia - Barbados (overnight)/Fly UK (K302A)	Inside from £1,784^{PP}	Seaview from £2,122^{PP}	Balcony from £2,218^{PP}	Flights included Direct regional flights available
The Grand Caribbean, Bermuda & New Orleans Ventura 2 Mar 2023 35 nights	Southampton - La Coruna - Hamilton (overnight) - Freeport - Cozumel - Roatan - Belize - New Orleans (overnight) - Key West - Miami - Port Canaveral - Ponta Delgada - Southampton (N306)	Inside from £2,652^{PP}	Seaview from £3,280^{PP}	Balcony from £5,017^{PP}	Roundtrip Southampton

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SILVERSEA

Indulge in an ultra-luxurious all-inclusive cruise around the southern Mediterranean enhanced by five-star stays in the sunny cities of Lisbon and Barcelona.

Arriving in bustling Barcelona, you'll enjoy a two-night stay. Here, you'll have a fabulous opportunity to immerse yourself in this exuberant city which holds the title of one of the most visited cities in the world. Prepare to be wowed by the genius of Gaudi at La Sagrada Familia, explore the epic waterfront and get lost among the city's quirky neighbourhoods.

The elegant *Silver Dawn* will then join you in Barcelona for a sumptuous sailing of the southern Mediterranean. Stroll through diverse old towns, marvel at awe-inspiring architecture and immerse yourself in local cultures, with calls to beautiful Palma de Mallorca and Gibraltar's sunny shores.

Disembarking in Portugal's sprawling capital, you'll end your holiday with an opulent two-night stay in the heart of Lisbon at the Altis Grand Hotel. Your landmark hotel boasts sumptuous views of the marvellous Tagus River, an award-winning spa and a chic rooftop bar offering peaceful botanical garden views.

This amazing holiday includes:

All-Inclusive Cruise

6 night all-inclusive luxury cruise on board *Silver Dawn*

- Complimentary premium shore excursions included at every port*
- Pre-paid gratuities and complimentary WI-FI on board
- In-suite butler service and fully stocked fridge for all suites
- All-inclusive beverages including fine wines, beers and premium spirits

Visiting: Barcelona, Palma de Mallorca, Gibraltar, Lisbon

FREE Luxury Hotel Stays

2 night five-star hotel stay at the Meliá Barcelona Sarrià or similar

2 night five-star stay in Lisbon at the Altis Grand Hotel or similar

All hotel stays include breakfast

FREE flights & transfers

(London departure - regional flights available)

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*Offer includes one excursion per guest, per port/day. Additional excursions available at an extra charge

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BARBADOS

Spend seven nights in utter bliss during a Barbados beach escape before taking an intimate cruise around the Caribbean with Royal Clipper.

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In Bridgetown, witness the most prestigious horse racing events at the Garrison Savannah or explore the historic sites. Admire the city's grand historic architecture or explore George Washington House, the same house and surroundings where the first U.S president stayed on his visit to Barbados.

Following your stay, you'll settle in for an extraordinary seven-night cruise on board the magnificent Royal Clipper. On board there's every luxury you could possibly imagine, from an elegant three-tiered dining room serving gourmet dishes to a well-stocked library and a spa. Your magical voyage will include the chance to discover the beautiful islands of the Caribbean such as Antigua, St Lucia, and Martinique, before you disembark back in Barbados.

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Intimate Royal Clipper Cruise

7 night full-board cruise on board Royal Clipper

- Enjoy a traditional sail-powered seafaring experience
- Relish a relaxed ambience with an easy-going dress code
- Intimate atmosphere with a capacity for just 227 passengers

Visiting*: Bridgetown (Barbados), Rodney Bay (St Lucia), Cabrits (Dominica), Falmouth Harbour (Antigua), Basseterre (St Kitts), Terre-de-Haut (Iles des Saintes), Martinique, Bridgetown (Barbados)

Hotel Stay

7 night four-star hotel stay in Barbados

*Book an Outside cabin or above and receive a FREE upgrade to an all-inclusive four-star hotel stay at The Club, Barbados Resort & Spa

All flights & transfers

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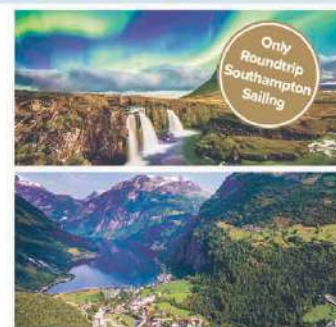


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- SPECIALITY DINING PACKAGE
- Flights Tenerife/Lisbon/Málaga to UK

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Malaga Lanzarote Tenerife
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RUNS:
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*Lead price based on 24 Jan 2023

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- Hand & Hold Luggage allowance
- 2nts Lisbon stay
- 14nts FULL BOARD CRUISE WITH PREMIUM BEVERAGE PACKAGE
- SPECIALITY DINING PACKAGE
- Flights Lisbon to UK.

ITINERARY:
Lisbon Funchal La Palma
Santa Cruz Tenerife Gran Canaria
Fuerteventura Lanzarote
Gibraltar Malaga Cadiz
Lisbon

REF: 12614

RUNS:
20 DEC 2022
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*Lead price based on 24 Jan 2023

9 Nights

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2NTS ATHENS STAY & 7NTS NORWEGIAN JADE

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- Flights Athens to UK.

ITINERARY:
Athens OR Athens OR Athens
Kusadasi Kusadasi
Patmos Patmos
Rhodes Volos Ashdod
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Rhodes Rhodes Limassol
Corfu Santorini Santorini
Santorini Athens Athens

REF: 11587 9934 10565

RUNS:
SEP - OCT 2022 & MAY - OCT 2023
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*Lead price based on 28 Oct 2022

15 Nights

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2NTS BARCELONA, 11NTS EPIC, 2NTS ROME

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- Hand & Hold Luggage allowance
- 2nts Barcelona stay
- 11nts FULL BOARD CRUISE WITH PREMIUM BEVERAGE PACKAGE
- SPECIALITY DINING PACKAGE
- 2nts Rome stay
- Flights Rome to UK

ITINERARY:
Barcelona Cannes
Florence/Pisa Naples/Pompeii
Messina Valletta Malta
Corfu Santorini
Athens Mykonos
Rome

REF: 12636

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03. Maloy, Norway	07. Leisure at sea
04. Alesund, Norway	08. Southampton, disembark

*Itin based on 29 May, other dates differ - call for more details.

DATES	INSIDE	OUTSIDE	VERANDA	CONCIERGE	AQUA
29 MAY	£1,059	£1,169	£1,519	£1,649	£1,899
24 JUN	£1,099	£1,249	£1,549	£1,749	£1,989
18 AUG	£1,149	£1,299	£1,599	£1,799	£2,039

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10 NIGHTS • 03 MAY 2023



\$200PP ONBOARD SPEND

01. Southampton, embark Celebrity Silhouette	06. La Coruna, Spain
02. Leisure at sea	07. Bilbao, Spain
03. Vigo, Spain	08. La Rochelle, France
04. Leixoes (Porto), Portugal (Overnight in port)	09. Leisure at sea
05. Leixoes (Porto),	10. Le Havre (Paris), France
	11. Southampton, disembark

DATES	INSIDE	OUTSIDE	VERANDA	CONCIERGE	AQUA
03 MAY	£1,319	£1,469	£1,769	£1,959	£2,259

CANARY ISLANDS

11 NIGHTS • SEP & OCT 2023



\$200PP ONBOARD SPEND

01. Southampton, embark Celebrity Silhouette	07. Canary Islands
02. Leisure at sea	08. Gran Canaria, Canary Islands
03. Leixoes (Porto), Portugal	09. Leisure at sea
04. Leisure at sea	10. Lisbon, Portugal
05. Lanzarote, Canary Islands	11. Vigo, Spain
06. Tenerife,	12. Leisure at sea
	Southampton, disembark

DATES	INSIDE	OUTSIDE	VERANDA	CONCIERGE	AQUA
30 SEP	£1,559	£1,749	£2,149	£2,349	£2,639
11 OCT	£1,399	£1,599	£1,899	£2,099	£2,399

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\$200PP ONBOARD SPEND

01. Southampton, embark Celebrity Silhouette	08. La Spezia (Cinque Terra), Italy
02. Leisure at sea	09. Marseille, France
03. Leisure at sea	10. Leisure at sea
04. Malaga, Spain	11. Cadiz (Seville), Spain
05. Leisure at sea	12. Leisure at sea
06. Cagliari, Sardinia	13. Leisure at sea
07. Civitavecchia (Rome), Italy	14. Southampton, disembark

*Itin based on 9 Sep, other dates differ - call for more details.

DATES	INSIDE	OUTSIDE	VERANDA	CONCIERGE	AQUA
05 AUG	£2,099	£2,389	£2,689	£2,879	£3,079
09 SEP	£1,899	£2,189	£2,689	£2,879	£3,079

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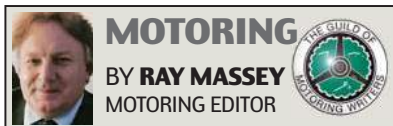
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A Ferrari for the family?


MOTORING

 BY RAY MASSEY
MOTORING EDITOR

FERRARI'S new Purosangue is a sporty but practical, family-friendly four-door car with lots of interior space and a commanding driving position. Just don't call the £350,000 mighty machine an SUV or a crossover.

To do so would be to incur the wrath of the legendary Italian marque which maintains it's a unique sports car 'unlike any other'.

Powered by a 6.5litre 725hp V12 engine linked to an 8-speed F1 DCT (dual-clutch transmission) gearbox and using a new active suspension system, the Purosangue — meaning thoroughbred in Italian — accelerates from rest to 62mph in just 3.3 seconds; to 125mph in 10.6 seconds and up to a top speed of 192mph.

The car has some unique features — including doors which open up like a clam as rear-hinged 'welcome' doors at the back make it easier



Sleek but spacious: The Purosangue has rear-hinged back doors for easy access

for passengers to get in and out. Despite appearances, the Purosangue is officially a sports car, albeit the first four-door, four-seater in Ferrari's 75-year history.

Ferrari insists it has come up with a completely different layout and innovative proportions compared to modern GT archetypes (so-called crossovers and SUVs).

It adds: 'The driving position and the heady, naturally aspirated V12 soundtrack deliver an entirely new, yet also entirely Ferrari, driving

experience.' The interior is described as a 'sporty lounge'. Its 473-litre boot is the biggest ever seen on a Ferrari and increases further if the two rear seats are fully raked forwards.

It has a lightweight carbon-fibre roof which can be replaced by an optional full-length electrochromic panoramic glass roof. It's the first Ferrari fitted with hill-descent control.

Some 85 per cent of the launch trim is environmentally friendly and instead of traditional carpeting or a leather floor, owners can choose

a bullet-proof, ballistic fabric used in military uniforms.

Air-quality sensors stop particulates from entering the cabin. Instead of a windshield wiper, the rear screen is cleaned by aerodynamic air flows.

Although Ferrari may dislike the SUV tag, the Purosangue is nevertheless its answer to rivals such as Lamborghini Urus and Maserati Levante.

Deliveries of the left-hand drive models begin from next summer with right-hand drive models for the UK from September next year.



HONDA'S Jazz has been crowned the most reliable used car, according to latest figures released by extended vehicle warranty firm Warrantywise.

Its annual reliability index reveals Japanese and Korean cars take nine of the top ten places (with Japanese models taking the top five) based on data from 131,000 insurance policies from used cars less than ten years old.

The Jazz, pictured, scored 93.7 per cent, with an average repair cost of £424.31 and a highest bill of £973.66.

In second place came the Mazda 2 on 89.9 per cent. France's Peugeot 107 (81.6 per cent) and in 10th place, is the sole European brand in the top ten.

Warrantywise named the previous generation Range Rover as the UK's most unreliable car at 20.2 per cent, with an average repair bill of £1,607, but the highest topping £23,890.



IT LOOKS like a cross between a beach buggy and a Jeep. Dacia's new model, the Manifesto, is a back-to-basics, green, all-wheel-drive electric prototype, which showcases ideas to be included in future designs.

Renault's Romanian arm describes it as 'cool, robust, affordable and

environmentally efficient'. A removable battery supplies power through a household outlet, so the vehicle can become an energy source for outdoor activities requiring power.

There are no doors, windows, or windshield, but plenty of hard-wearing surfaces and a roof rack. The body has

recycled plastic parts and the interior has a cork dashboard. Removable seat coverings turn into sleeping bags and you can clean the interior with a jet washer.

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Pages 84 & 86

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1 AFL	1 BCP	91 BP	1 CFT	7 DDG	6 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH
1 AFT I	4 BCT	1 BPR	7 CGL	DDP I	6 DSN	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH
AG I	1984 BD	BPW I	1 CDS	45 DE	8 DTL	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH
1 AGE	1 BDD	BR 6	1980 CN	2 DEJ	66 DU	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH
AGN 9	1 BDG	11 BRD	1 CKM	DEZ I	DUD I	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH
28 AHB	1 BDR I	9 BRJ	1 CKS	DFB I	DV 74	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH
1 AHG	1 BDS	BR 5	1 CL	DFD 2	E 2	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH
1 AHH	1 BEI	1970 BS	CMJ I	1 DFL	EAD I	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH
96 AGJ	2 BEJ	1 BU	1 CMS	1 DFP	EAG I	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH
95 AJL	77 BEP	1 BV	500 CN	66 DGA	EAL I	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH
99 ALJ	BEZ I	BWS 28	CNH I	1 DGD	EAL I	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH
ALK I	1 BFM	BY I	85 CO	1 DGE	EAN I	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH
1 AMD	BGR I	450 C	CS I	1 DGF	EB I	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH
1 AMY	7 BHS	CA 76	94 CSC	6 DGR	1 EWB	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH
52 AO	700 BJ	1 CAG	1 CSE	63 DCH	888 EC	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH
AP I	68 BJC	1 CAE	11 CTL	8 DHD	1 ECA	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH
76 APJ	1 CAG	1 CAG	1 CAG	1 CAG	1 CAG	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH
1 ARF	11 BJL	1 CAY	88 CTH	1 DHP	ECF I	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH
750 AS	8 BJN	1975 CB	CUE I	1 DHT	5 ECJ	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH	1 DSH

NAMES AND WORDS

A81 OLA	B411 HAM	B311 SON	BRA 63Y	BYW 4Y	CL11 NCH	CUI2 LEY	DRU 6E	FAT IIA	GE11 DER	H42 LOW	HOU IT	K111 NER	M46 RAE	M662 ORY	MEY 216K	NUG 31IT	PHA 204H	REN 47A	SAIL SOM	S7 OKE	THO 129E	W41 DEN
AB1 ETL	BAN 13R	B311 TON	B321 INT	B24 4Y	C411 LAN	C21 WIE	D27 DEN	FEA 120N	GER 72Y	H42 OLD	HOW 4T	K112 KBY	M466 OTS	M661 ONE	MOI ENT	OBR 213N	PHE 14N	R311 ATE	SAY 32S	STO 23Y	THU 210W	W41 DEN
AB24 HAM	BAN 70N	B311 TON	B311 TON	B24 V0	C411 LOW	CUI2 WEN	D24 DUE	FEA 120N	GER 72Y	H42 OLD	HOW 4T	K112 KBY	M466 OTS	M661 ONE	MOI ENT	OBR 213N	PHE 14N	R311 ATE	SCA 11Y	S724 KER	THU 210W	W41 DEN
AB2 AMS	BAN 342A	B311 TON	B311 TON	B24 V0	C411 LOW	CUI2 WEN	D24 DUE	FEA 120N	GER 72Y	H42 OLD	HOW 4T	K112 KBY	M466 OTS	M661 ONE	MOI ENT	OBR 213N	PHE 14N	R311 ATE	SCA 11Y	S724 KER	THU 210W	W41 DEN
AD6 13X	B428 00R	B311 TON	B311 TON	B24 V0	C411 LOW	CUI2 WEN	D24 DUE	FEA 120N	GER 72Y	H42 OLD	HOW 4T	K112 KBY	M466 OTS	M661 ONE	MOI ENT	OBR 213N	PHE 14N	R311 ATE	SCA 11Y	S724 KER	THU 210W	W41 DEN
AD6 13X	B428 00R	B311 TON	B311 TON	B24 V0	C411 LOW	CUI2 WEN	D24 DUE	FEA 120N	GER 72Y	H42 OLD	HOW 4T	K112 KBY	M466 OTS	M661 ONE	MOI ENT	OBR 213N	PHE 14N	R311 ATE	SCA 11Y	S724 KER	THU 210W	W41 DEN
AD6 13X	B428 00R	B311 TON	B311 TON	B24 V0	C411 LOW	CUI2 WEN	D24 DUE	FEA 120N	GER 72Y	H42 OLD	HOW 4T	K112 KBY	M466 OTS	M661 ONE	MOI ENT	OBR 213N	PHE 14N	R311 ATE	SCA 11Y	S724 KER	THU 210W	W41 DEN
AOR 14N	B42 10W	B311 TON	B311 TON	B24 V0	C411 LOW	CUI2 WEN	D24 DUE	FEA 120N	GER 72Y	H42 OLD	HOW 4T	K112 KBY	M466 OTS	M661 ONE	MOI ENT	OBR 213N	PHE 14N	R311 ATE	SCA 11Y	S724 KER	THU 210W	W41 DEN
ALB 371	B42 25S	B311 TON	B311 TON	B24 V0	C411 LOW	CUI2 WEN	D24 DUE	FEA 120N	GER 72Y	H42 OLD	HOW 4T	K112 KBY	M466 OTS	M661 ONE	MOI ENT	OBR 213N	PHE 14N	R311 ATE	SCA 11Y	S724 KER	THU 210W	W41 DEN
ALD 23D	B42 25S	B311 TON	B311 TON	B24 V0	C411 LOW	CUI2 WEN	D24 DUE	FEA 120N	GER 72Y	H42 OLD	HOW 4T	K112 KBY	M466 OTS	M661 ONE	MOI ENT	OBR 213N	PHE 14N	R311 ATE	SCA 11Y	S724 KER	THU 210W	W41 DEN
AMB 813R	B42 25S	B311 TON	B311 TON	B24 V0	C411 LOW	CUI2 WEN	D24 DUE	FEA 120N	GER 72Y	H42 OLD	HOW 4T	K112 KBY	M466 OTS	M661 ONE	MOI ENT	OBR 213N	PHE 14N	R311 ATE	SCA 11Y	S724 KER	THU 210W	W41 DEN
AMB 205E	B42 25S	B311 TON	B311 TON	B24 V0	C411 LOW	CUI2 WEN	D24 DUE	FEA 120N	GER 72Y	H42 OLD	HOW 4T	K112 KBY	M466 OTS	M661 ONE	MOI ENT	OBR 213N	PHE 14N	R311 ATE	SCA 11Y	S724 KER	THU 210W	W41 DEN
AND 223J	B42 25S	B311 TON	B311 TON	B24 V0	C411 LOW	CUI2 WEN	D24 DUE	FEA 120N	GER 72Y	H42 OLD	HOW 4T	K112 KBY	M466 OTS	M661 ONE	MOI ENT	OBR 213N	PHE 14N	R311 ATE	SCA 11Y	S724 KER	THU 210W	W41 DEN
41I GEL	B42 25S	B311 TON	B311 TON	B24 V0	C411 LOW	CUI2 WEN	D24 DUE	FEA 120N	GER 72Y	H42 OLD	HOW 4T	K112 KBY	M466 OTS	M661 ONE	MOI ENT	OBR 213N	PHE 14N	R311 ATE	SCA 11Y	S724 KER	THU 210W	W41 DEN
ANG 61N	B42 25S	B311 TON	B311 TON	B24 V0	C411 LOW	CUI2 WEN	D24 DUE	FEA 120N	GER 72Y	H42 OLD	HOW 4T	K112 KBY	M466 OTS	M661 ONE	MOI ENT	OBR 213N	PHE 14N	R311 ATE	SCA 11Y	S724 KER	THU 210W	W41 DEN
ANN 677E	B42 25S	B311 TON	B311 TON	B24 V0	C411 LOW	CUI2 WEN	D24 DUE	FEA 120N	GER 72Y	H42 OLD	HOW 4T	K112 KBY	M466 OTS	M661 ONE	MOI ENT	OBR 213N	PHE 14N	R311 ATE	SCA 11Y	S724 KER	THU 210W	W41 DEN
ANS 73Y	B42 25S	B311 TON	B311 TON	B24 V0	C411 LOW	CUI2 WEN	D24 DUE	FEA 120N	GER 72Y	H42 OLD	HOW 4T	K112 KBY	M466 OTS	M661 ONE	MOI ENT	OBR 213N	PHE 14N	R311 ATE	SCA 11Y	S724 KER	THU 210W	W41 DEN
AR13 NES	B42 25S	B311 TON	B311 TON	B24 V0	C411 LOW	CUI2 WEN	D24 DUE	FEA 120N	GER 72Y	H42 OLD	HOW 4T	K112 KBY	M466 OTS	M661 ONE	MOI ENT	OBR 213N	PHE 14N	R311 ATE	SCA 11Y	S724 KER	THU 210W	W41 DEN
ARI OTT	B42 25S	B311 TON	B311 TON	B24 V0	C411 LOW	CUI2 WEN	D24 DUE	FEA 120N	GER 72Y	H42 OLD	HOW 4T	K112 KBY	M466 OTS	M661 ONE	MOI ENT	OBR 213N	PHE 14N	R311 ATE	SCA 11Y	S724 KER	THU 210W	W41 DEN
A25 LAN	B42 25S	B311 TON	B311 TON	B24 V0	C411 LOW	CUI2 WEN	D24 DUE	FEA 120N	GER 72Y	H42 OLD	HOW 4T	K112 KBY	M466 OTS	M661 ONE	MOI ENT	OBR 213N	PHE 14N	R311 ATE	SCA 11Y	S724 KER	THU 210W	W41 DEN
42 UNA	B42 25S	B311 TON	B311 TON	B24 V0	C411 LOW	CUI2 WEN	D24 DUE	FEA 120N	GER 72Y	H42 OLD	HOW 4T	K112 KBY	M466 OTS	M661 ONE	MOI ENT	OBR 213N	PHE 14N	R311 ATE	SCA 11Y	S724 KER	THU 210W	W41 DEN
A578 URY	B42 25S	B311 TON	B311 TON	B24 V0	C411 LOW	CUI2 WEN	D24 DUE	FEA 120N	GER 72Y	H42 OLD	HOW 4T	K112 KBY	M466 OTS	M661 ONE	MOI ENT	OBR 213N	PHE 14N	R311 ATE	SCA 11Y	S724 KER	THU 210W	W41 DEN
AUD 123Y	B42 25S	B311 TON	B311 TON	B24 V0	C411 LOW	CUI2 WEN	D24 DUE	FEA 120N	GER 72Y	H42 OLD	HOW 4T	K112 KBY	M466 OTS	M661 ONE	MOI ENT	OBR 213N	PHE 14N	R311 ATE	SCA 11Y	S724 KER	THU 210W	W41 DEN
A10 RYE	B42 25S	B311 TON	B311 TON	B24 V0	C411 LOW	CUI2 WEN	D24 DUE	FEA 120N	GER 72Y	H42 OLD	HOW 4T	K112 KBY	M466 OTS	M661 ONE	MOI ENT	OBR 213N	PHE 14N	R311 ATE	SCA 11Y	S724 KER	THU 210W	W41 DEN
AVE 2Y	B42 25S	B311 TON	B311 TON	B24 V0	C411 LOW	CUI2 WEN	D24 DUE	FEA 120N	GER 72Y	H42 OLD	HOW 4T	K112 KBY	M466 OTS	M661 ONE	MOI ENT	OBR 213N	PHE 14N	R311 ATE	SCA 11Y	S724 KER	THU 210W	W41 DEN
B11 LES	B42 25S	B311 TON	B311 TON	B24 V0	C411 LOW	CUI2 WEN	D24 DUE	FEA 120N	GER 72Y	H42 OLD	HOW 4T	K112 KBY	M466 OTS	M661 ONE	MOI ENT	OBR 213N	PHE 14N	R311 ATE	SCA 11Y	S724 KER	THU 210W	W41 DEN
B410 OCK	B42 25S	B311 TON	B311 TON	B24 V0	C411 LOW	CUI2 WEN	D24 DUE	FEA 120N	GER 72Y	H42 OLD	HOW 4T	K112 KBY	M466 OTS	M661 ONE	MOI ENT	OBR 213N	PHE 14N	R311 ATE	SCA 11Y	S724 KER	THU 210W	W41 DEN
B41 DRY	B42 25S	B311 TON	B311 TON	B24 V0	C411 LOW	CUI2 WEN	D24 DUE	FEA 120N	GER 72Y	H42 OLD	HOW 4T	K112 KBY	M466 OTS	M661 ONE	MOI ENT	OBR 213N	PHE 14N	R311 ATE	SCA 11Y	S724 KER	THU 210W	W41 DEN
B41I MER	B42 25S	B311 TON	B311 TON	B24 V0	C411 LOW	CUI2 WEN	D24 DUE	FEA 120N	GER 72Y	H42 OLD	HOW 4T	K112 KBY	M466 OTS	M661 ONE	MOI ENT	OBR 213N	PHE 14N	R311 ATE	SCA 11Y	S724 KER	THU 210W	W41 DEN
B41I BER	B42 25S	B311 TON	B311 TON	B24 V0	C411 LOW	CUI2 WEN	D24 DUE	FEA 120N	GER 72Y	H42 OLD	HOW 4T	K112 KBY	M466 OTS	M661 ONE	MOI ENT	OBR 213N	PHE 14N	R311 ATE	SCA 11Y	S724 KER	THU 210W	W41 DEN

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N29 ADD £450	K23 ARH £450	B16 7284 £350	N28 CEL £450	W55 DAW £450
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K123 ADJ £350	K31 BJC £350	K23 CFC £350	X002 DAY £350	R24 DOR £350
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K121 AJP £350	L31 ASA £450	N29 BOS £350	L23 CJP £450	P24 DDS £450
N11 AKE £450	S31 ASA £450	P28 BOW £450	P700 CJR £450	K28 DDS £350
N8 AKP £250	L31 ASE £450	N600 BOW £350	K121 CJB £450	K121 DDE £350
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K26 ALB £450	ASZ 2067 £150	K23 BRN £450	K321 CMH £450	M999 GFE £350
K123 ALB £350	ASZ 2068 £150	N28 BRN £450	N26 CML £250	K27 GRF £250
N121 ALD £250	T600 ATH £250	N26 DER £350	W30 CML £250	R29 FOS £350
L31 ALD £350	P15 ATS £450	N333 CMW £450	V333 CMW £450	K28 GFE £450
P26 ALE £450	L23 ATS £450	N400 BRO £250	K23 COB £350	P800 FOS £150
R29 ALE £350	K28 ATT £450	N26 BRU £450	P23 COB £450	GSZ 3034 £100
L121 ALE £450	L21 AVE £450	K27 BRU £450	N27 COB £250	GSZ 3035 £100
N27 ALG £450	AXZ 565 £350	T60 BRY £450	K23 COB £450	GSZ 3036 £100
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K24 ALL £450	AXZ 4473 £150	BSZ 1046 £150	K21 COE £450	GSZ 3038 £100
N25 ALL £350	Y072 BAB £150	BSZ 1047 £150	T26 COE £350	GSZ 3039 £100
P27 ALL £450	K26 BAB £450	BSZ 1059 £75	K31 COE £450	GSZ 3040 £100
L121 ALL £250	N28 BAB £250	K31 COE £450	N9 DEF £250	GSZ 3041 £100
P24 ALM £450	P121 BAB £350	N28 BUC £450	X100 COE £250	GSZ 3042 £100
L121 ALM £450	W16 BAC £250	L321 BUC £350	N28 COM £450	GSZ 3043 £100
K26 ALP £350	J29 BAD £450	M23 BUD £350	M121 COM £350	GSZ 3044 £100
N29 ALP £450	P222 BAK £450	P29 BUK £450	K27 COO £450	GSZ 3045 £100
P121 ALP £350	K26 BAM £450	J29 BUK £450	N99 COO £450	GSZ 3046 £100
L121 ALP £250	P222 BAM £350	P29 BUK £450	J55 COP £450	GSZ 3047 £100
P25 ALR £250	N24 BAN £350	K52 BUL £350	N123 COR £450	GSZ 3048 £100
J123 ALS £350	P26 BAN £450	K321 BUL £250	K321 COR £450	GSZ 3049 £100
L121 ALT £450	H97 BAN £250	K27 BUN £450	PA05 COS £250	GSZ 3050 £100
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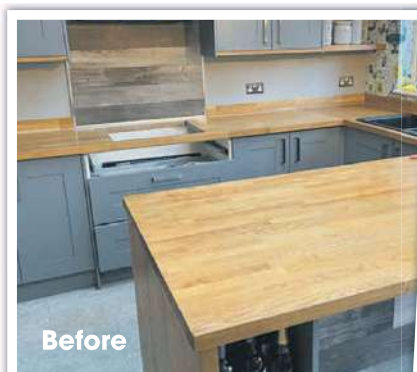
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GARDENING
NIGEL COLBORN

MENTION St John's wort and people think you mean anti-depression pills. When I Googled it, the first reference to the plants was on the 11th page. That's surprising because St John's worts are popular, beautiful and easy to grow.

Many varieties will provide glorious colour well into autumn. Almost all the 400 *Hypericum* species have vivid yellow flowers. The plants range from tiny Alpines and taller perennials to substantial shrubs and trees. Some are invasive weeds — though handy for groundcover. Others are easily controlled and flower for long periods.

The intensity of yellow varies among different species and varieties. Hues run from primrose through lemon to

intense gold. The stronger hues might seem bright for some tastes. Each flower usually has five petals, surrounding an attractive fuzz of stamens.

The colloquial name originates from the Europe's commonest wild species, *H. perforatum*. That flowers in midsummer, coinciding with Saint John the Baptist's feast day on June 24.

Perforate St John's wort is also Britain's most abundant native, often seen in unspoilt meadows.

Square-stemmed St John's Wort, *H. tetrapterum*, is also common. That favours damp or even marshy conditions.

GOOD GROUNDCOVER

THE most popular shrub variety, *H. Hidcote*, grows 1.2 metres high with a slightly wider spread. Young plants become attractively shaped domes with daffodil yellow flowers from midsummer into September.

As well as free-standing

shrubs, woody hypericums can be grown as informal hedging.

When choosing varieties for that, check height and hardiness — some are borderline.

The most popular variety for groundcover is *H. calycinum*. Also called Aaron's Beard or Rose of Sharon, this is a vigorous spreader. The plant is excellent for groundcover in shade.

But once planted, it's with you for life. The roots creep into hedge bottoms and along



Picture: ALAMY

border-backs. Once established, those roots are difficult to dig out. For cut flowers and outdoor displays, *Hypericum x inodorum* is an enchanting cross-breed. Growing 1.2m high with a similar spread, this makes an eye-catching feature shrub. The flowers develop as clusters on stems. Late flowers open among reddish fruits which replaced the earlier blooms.

They frequently appear in florists' shops. But they're even prettier in a garden.

FOR SMALL PLACES

AMONG small hypericums *H. cerastioides* is a charmer. Growing no higher than 15cm, the plant develops a compact, yellow and grey mat.

The flowers, from mid-spring to early summer, are an intense lemon contrasting with silver-grey leaves.

For a sunny wild garden or flower meadow, *H. perforatum* prospers in most soils. Another species, *H. pulchrum*, suits dry, sunny banks.

For rock gardens, *H. reptans* is also a charmer. Mats of foliage become crowded with cup-shaped yellow flowers in summer. The leaves turn red each autumn. Wild species may be hard to find, but they're worth looking for.

Intense: St John's wort, *Hypericum tetrapterum*, is happy in damp conditions

MORE GARDENING:
Page 86

Homes & Gardens

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ACTION PLAN

NIGEL COLBORN'S ESSENTIAL JOBS FOR YOUR GARDEN THIS WEEK

Lose those scruffy leaves

HERBACEOUS perennials which flower in spring could do with some attention.

Large-leaved plants, particularly *Brunnera* and *Pulmonaria* (pictured right), will benefit from having scruffy old leaves removed. Snip them close to the base of each plant. New foliage will develop during autumn and stay fresh until next spring.

Mature plants can be divided into smaller sections. Re-plant the healthiest of those and discard the aged centres of the parent plants. Primroses,

polyanthus and cowslips can be divided now. Dig up mature or aging plants and shake off the soil. The knobbly rhizomes and roots should be fully visible. Each rhizome has a rosette of leaves plus a few roots at its tip.

Rather than splitting whole plants, select the best and most vigorous of the leaf rosettes; these are at the outer end of each rhizome. Remove those end rosettes, leaving each with a root cluster as well as young leaves.

Plant the best of your rhizome tips where you want them to flower next spring. Or, pot up for planting out later.



Pictures: GARDEN WORLD IMAGES

Plant of the week

ASTER FRIKARTII 'MÖNCH'

NAMED after a famous peak in the Alps, this is a tall daisy with an amazingly long, productive flowering period. A hybrid of two aster species, it has rough-textured leaves and soft blue flowers with lemon yellow centres. These can appear from July and keep coming well into autumn. As cut flowers, they last well in water. In a garden, mature plants bloom for several months before fading.

Happy in almost any soil and with good light, this is a durable, disease-resistant plant, shrugging off drought or excess rain with equal aplomb. Propagation by division is quick and easy, best done in late autumn or spring.



DEAL WITH UPSTART WEEDS

IN MUCH of Britain, drought halted all plant growth. Now that most of us have had rain, weeds have returned as the latest headache. Those need dealing with now, while they're still young and vulnerable. Seedlings which are greening bare soil should be easy to hoe out. If you do that on a bright day, most will shrivel in the sunlight. Plants such as chickweed are quick to take root again, so rake those off or be ready to



hoe the area several times. Weed seedlings are tiny but fast-growing. The speediest – hairy bittercress – can germinate, flower and seed in just a few weeks. So bear down on those, hoeing or rubbing out seedlings wherever you see them.

WISTERIA SUCKERS MUST GO

RECENTLY, I discovered several long wisteria stems running along the ground. I thought of training them onto the wall, to join the mature branches.

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will weaken the grafted plant. They should be removed. Cut the suckers flush with the main stem or below the ground. Keep an eye out for further suckers.

READER'S QUESTION

WHEN we began to grow our own vegetables this year, an experienced neighbour said we should not grow potatoes in the same place each year. Why is that?

Mrs L. Baker, Warks.

THE main reason for rotating potato crops is to avoid soil-borne pests and diseases.

Potato cyst nematodes are soil-dwelling, microscopic worms which in large numbers can greatly reduce yields.

The nematodes lie in the

ground as eggs, packed into microscopic cysts.

Those can survive for several years. When potatoes are planted, the cysts rupture, releasing active nematodes which feed on the potato roots. That causes low yields of small, disappointing spuds.

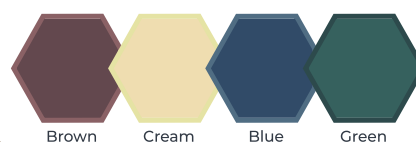
To avoid eelworm infestations, it's best to give soil that has grown potatoes a four-year break before re-planting.

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J. Beard

Professor Jonathan Beard
Consultant Vascular Surgeon

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Ashley's 'cheeky' MySale bid rejected

By Archie Mitchell

MIKE Ashley's audacious bid for the Australian fashion firm MySale was rejected yesterday in his latest clash with arch-rival Sir Philip Green.

The tracksuit tycoon's 2p per share offer was snubbed as 'materially undervaluing' the business.

Ashley and Green are the AIM-listed firm's two biggest shareholders, owning a combined 45pc of the business.

They bought into the flash-sale specialist when it joined the London Stock Exchange in 2014, but Ashley dumped his stake five years later after a rift opened up between the pair. Green held on to his stake, despite its value being almost totally wiped out.

Ashley then became MySale's biggest shareholder when he bought a 28.7pc stake this summer.

At the time a friend of Green's said Ashley 'does not know what he's doing'.

Weeks later Ashley made an offer through



Clash: Philip Green and Mike Ashley

his Frasers Group to pick up those shares in the business he does not own for £13.6m – or 2p each.

Frasers said it wanted to use MySale to boost growth in Australia and New Zealand and to clear out unsold stock.

But his offer has been rejected by the

MySale board. When Green invested in the business shares were worth 226p, meaning he would take a loss of around £80m if the takeover was approved.

MySale said Ashley's bid was a quarter below the company's value the day before it was made and noted it was the lowest offer he could have made under City takeover rules. Retail analyst Nick Bubb described the bid as 'cheeky'.

MySale said Ashley's offer was not 'fair and reasonable' and told shareholders to vote against it.

But MySale's rejection was undermined when chairman and founder Carl Jackson stepped down over his decision to back Ashley's bid. Jackson is MySale's fifth-biggest shareholder, with a 10.6pc stake. He is being replaced by senior director Charles Butler.

MySale buys excess stock from retailers in Europe and sells it cheaply online in Australia, New Zealand and South East Asia.



On 30th anniversary of Black Wednesday...

Pound crashes to lowest since 1985

By Lucy Ward and Mark Shapland

STERLING tumbled to a 37-year low against the dollar yesterday amid warnings the UK is in recession.

On the 30th anniversary of Black Wednesday, when a dramatic fall in sterling caused Britain to crash out of the European exchange rate mechanism (ERM), the pound hit \$1.1351, a level not seen since 1985.

It came after figures from the Office for National Statistics showed retail sales fell 1.6pc in August as the cost of living crunch squeezed households.

At the same time, Goldman Sachs said the UK was already in recession and warned the Bank Holiday for the Queen's funeral on Monday would add to the economic woes.

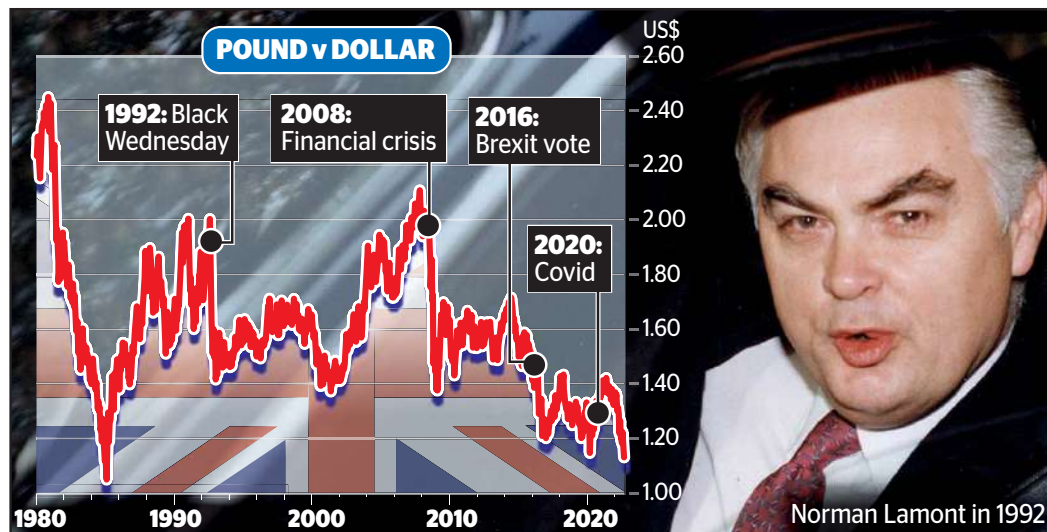
Susannah Streeter, of investment platform Hargreaves Lansdown, said: 'It's Bleak Friday for the pound, amid worries the UK has hurtled into recession, as the cost-of-living crisis intensifies and confidence in the Government's ability to prompt an economic turnaround fades.'

'It's a chilling repeat of the dismal day, 30 years ago.'

The ERM was created in 1979 and linked several currencies, including the pound when the UK joined in 1990, to reduce large fluctuations in exchange rates.

But in 1992, as red-hot inflation and a weakening economy caused traders to ramp up their bets against sterling, it slumped below the lower bounds of the ERM.

Despite the Bank of England buying billions of pounds to sup-



port the currency and hiking interest rates twice in a day, sterling fell further, humiliating then-Chancellor Norman Lamont.

Now the Bank faces a fresh headache: how to fight eye-watering inflation while trying to minimise damage to the economy.

While raising interest rates should help tame soaring prices, by encouraging saving instead of spending, it could hit growth.

The Bank's Monetary Policy Committee is due to hike rates again next week, with inflation at 9.9pc. There could be a 0.5 or 0.75 percentage point lift.

The faltering economy presents a major headache for Liz Truss and her Chancellor Kwasi Kwarteng as he prepares to deliver an

emergency 'mini-Budget' on Friday. Kwarteng will be hoping to boost growth with tax cuts while also reassuring markets that his plans will not result in a borrowing binge that will send the national debt soaring higher.

Goldman Sachs thinks the UK is already in recession. Output fell 0.1pc in the second quarter of the year, and it thinks it will slide again in the third quarter. Mathéus Dibo, an investment strategist at Goldman, said: 'Monday's holiday won't aid the situation. People are not working.'

Two weeks ago, Goldman said inflation in the UK could hit 22pc, perplexing many in the City. Shortly before, Citi said it could reach 18pc. Since then the Gov-

ernment has launched a £100bn-plus programme to cap energy bills and put a lid on inflation.

Dibo said: 'This will not be like the recession during the financial crisis. The Government's fiscal response, the tight labour market and strong wage growth will mean the recession is shallow.'

'Excess savings built up during the pandemic will help. It is likely to last three or four quarters, leading to a 1pc contraction.'

The ONS sales data showed shoppers bought less in August, with the 1.6pc fall the biggest since July 2021. Elizabeth Martins, economist at HSBC, said: 'It underscores the need for support for households in the face of the inflation shock.'

European inflation even worse than in UK

By Hugo Duncan

INFLATION in the European Union is now higher than in Britain as rising energy and food prices hit families on the continent.

A report by official statisticians Eurostat showed prices across the 27-nation bloc were 10.1pc higher last month than in August 2021.

That was a sharper rise than the 9.9pc increase in the UK, and underlined the scale of the cost of living crunch around the world.

Among EU countries, inflation was highest in Estonia at 25.2pc

INFLATION		
	EU	10.1pc
	UK	9.9pc
	USA	8.3pc

and lowest in France at 6.6pc. In the eurozone it was 9.1pc.

That was the highest rate since the euro was created in 1999.

Prices around the world have been driven higher by rising energy and food costs in the wake of the Ukraine war as well as the aftermath of the Covid pandemic.

The European Central Bank (ECB) raised rates in the eurozone by an unprecedented 0.75 percentage points last week and said further hikes were on the way.

Speaking at the French central bank yesterday, ECB president Christine Lagarde conceded that rate increases could hit growth.

'It's possible, but it's a risk we have to take,' she said.

Has luxury lost its sparkle?

High-end brands vulnerable to recession

LUXURY goods companies draw shoppers with their unique allure and cachet. Even more fascinating for investors are the bold strategies, including steep price rises, now being employed by this industry amid global economic uncertainty.

A Chanel handbag that would have cost £3,940 in late 2019 is now £6,740. Louis Vuitton, one of the 75 'houses' that with Christian Dior, Fendi, Givenchy and Tiffany form the LVMH empire, has also made some bags more expensive.

Watches of Switzerland, retailer of Rolex and other high-prestige timepieces, is moving into a Bond Street shop, eight times the size of its current West End store.

These and other moves show confidence – some analysts regard these businesses as the European equivalent of Apple and other US tech giants. Strong recent results underlie the luxury titans' trust in pricing power, an essential attribute when inflation surges.

But, despite this audacity, the stock market's assessment of the outlook is downbeat.

The S&P Global Luxury index, whose members include Hermes, the Gucci owner Kering, LVMH and Richemont, the Cartier and Jaeger-LeCoultre group, has fallen 25pc since the start of 2022.

Part of this is due to apprehension over lockdowns in China, which accounts for about 80pc of global expenditure on bags, jewel-



INVESTMENT EXTRA

By **Anne Ashworth**

lery, perfumes and watches. Pre-pandemic about a third of those purchases were outside China, but Gen Z shoppers, fond of Burberry and Gucci, are being hit by travel bans and unemployment.

Luxury brands may not be your bag. But you have already bet on them if you have money in many funds and investment trusts.

BlackRock European Dynamic, Brunner, Fundsmith, Law Debenture and Witan hold LVMH. Finsbury Growth & Income and Lindsell Train UK Equity have stakes in Burberry; while Smithson is backing Moncler, known for its £1,200 quilted coats.

Diageo, the proprietor of a variety of premium spirits brands, is one of the constituents of the Lindsell Train Global Equity fund. F&C and Monks own Richemont which recently fought off an activist investor attack.

As an investor in Fundsmith and Smithson, I am concerned about luxury goods groups' capacity to weather a lengthy recession.

But I am minded to rely on their commercial instincts and creative abilities. As in previous slowdowns, there may be much 'cross-category indulgence' with lovers of luxury remaining faithful to a brand, but buying cheaper items.

Marcus Morris-Eyton, manager

SHARES THIS YEAR

BURBERRY	5.4pc	↓
DIAGEO	7pc	↓
LVMH	12.6pc	↓
HERMÈS PARIS	20.8pc	↓

EssilorLuxottica	22pc	↓
KERING	30pc	↓
MONCLER	33.4pc	↓
ESTÉE LAUDER	35.6pc	↓

of the Brunner trust, says: 'Past downturns have shown demand for luxury goods tends to be more resilient than other areas of discretionary spending. Put simply, the wealthy are more immune to cost of living pressures.'

He believes that LVMH's brands give it tremendous pricing power, saying: 'In a recessionary environment LVMH has historically benefited from its loyal customer base and best in class brand portfolio.'

AND in the 2008 financial crisis, sales and profits rose at LVMH's fashion and leather division, which accounts for three-quarters of profits today.

Marcel Stotzel, at the Fidelity European Trust, says LVMH can restrict supply, supporting prices. He adds: 'In certain categories, such as champagne and cognac, production is restricted or cannot be altered quickly and this further increases pricing power.'

The luxury titans will try to make the most of their pricing power, and size. Rebecca Irwin of the US fund manager PGIM Jen-

nison says: 'Scale brings advantages in marketing, in getting the best real estate, in hiring the best people, in sharing best practices.'

As a result, the sector grew 17pc in the first six months of the year.

Claudia D'Arpizio and Federica Levato of the consultancy Bain forecast that the market could be worth €360-380bn (£315-332bn) by 2025, against €288bn (£252bn) in 2021. But if revival in China is slow and customers worldwide are cautious, the figure would be €305-320bn (£267-280bn).

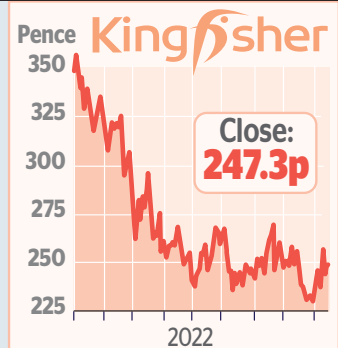
Levato says firms are 're-routing their futures', and improving the online experience.

Irwin notes that American men are more luxury-conscious, with cities like Miami, Austin and Denver a source of demand. There is an emphasis on planet-friendly items for the younger, more eco-conscious clientele.

The fall in luxury goods shares means that they appear reassuringly inexpensive. Buying them is a gamble on the belief that the rich will always be different and unperturbed by economic turmoil.

The markets will take some time to be convinced of this, I suspect.

SHARE OF THE WEEK



B&Q owner Kingfisher will be the latest retailer to shine a light on the extent to which consumers are cutting back as inflation spirals.

The DIY group, which also owns Screwfix, soared as lockdowns fuelled a home improvement boom. It stunned the City in March as it became the UK's third retailer, after Tesco and Marks and Spencer, to record an annual profit over £1bn.

But as the cost of living rises analysts will seek evidence of a drop in spending in the half-year results on Thursday.

They will also ponder whether the boom has run out of steam after rival Wickes warned demand had 'softened'.

Hargreaves Lansdown analyst Susannah Streeter said: 'There are tentative signs the number of amateur builders, painters and carpenters hanging up their tool kits is growing. Many DIY projects aimed at carving out working environments at home are also likely to have been completed, as more employees settle into a hybrid rhythm of work.'

She said home owners may be put off projects because of the bleak economic outlook.

The DIY slowdown and market turmoil has seen Kingfisher shares fall more than a quarter this year to levels seen in summer 2020, around 250p.

But Deutsche Bank analysts disagree DIY will be 'one of the biggest casualties' of a recession. Improvements will be hit by higher mortgages and bills but working from home and outdated houses needing energy efficiency upgrades mean there are more 'tailwinds' than other markets.

WHAT IS POUND-COST-AVERAGING?

UNDER this simple method of investing, you drip-feed money into the stock markets every month or every quarter, rather than entrusting a lump sum at the outset.

If, for example, you have a spare £3,000, you invest £250 a month, rather than staking the whole amount.

The aim is to limit the damage of falling stock markets by reducing the overall average cost of your investment, as each regular investment buys more units at times of market weakness, and fewer units when markets are high.

WHO SHOULD INVEST IN THIS WAY?

POUND-cost-averaging is an ideal way to limit the risk of investing in shares as a beginner. It is good to establish a routine – to 'cement good behaviours', as some would put it.

But it also suits seasoned investors who are wary about the direction of stock markets, but do not want to miss out on opportunities for gains – and also want to be positioned for an upturn.

They regard drip-feeding money into markets as a good discipline, acknowledging that you probably need to buy on the way down to benefit from a full recovery.

Since you ask...

Here we explain baffling stock market terminology – and how you might stand to profit. This week: Pound-cost-averaging

WHAT IS THE CHIEF BENEFIT OF THIS?

IT REMOVES some emotion from investing in stocks and shares – you are also more sheltered from volatility. You do not need to wonder if you've chosen the most propitious moment to buy. Instead, commit to regular contribution, whether prices go up or down. You should sleep easier.

IS THERE A DOWNSIDE?

YES, if stock markets soar during the period over which you are investing it would have

been more profitable to invest the whole £3,000. But at least you have derived some benefit – and spared yourself anxiety.

WHERE DID THE PHRASE ORIGINATE?

THE many advantages of this system were first popularised in *The Intelligent Investor*, an American book published in 1949, where it was called 'dollar-cost averaging' and described as a means of securing a 'satisfactory overall price' for your holdings.

The author of the book was Benjamin

Graham. These days he is best known as the person that Warren Buffett, the manager of the mighty Berkshire Hathaway fund, regarded as his guru in matters of investment.

Buffett says his own philanthropy was inspired by admiration of Graham's generosity with ideas, and much else.

IS VALUE AVERAGING DIFFERENT?

YES. Under this system, you alter the amount you invest each month or quarter, contributing more if prices are declining. Some fans set a target for the growth of their portfolio, putting in more money if they are not meeting their goal. There is more work involved, and more risk.

HOW WOULD I GET STARTED?

MOST fund management groups offer monthly savings plans. You can also open an account with providers such as Nutmeg, choosing the level of risk you wish to take and your long-term goals.

Platforms (online investment supermarkets) like AJ Bell offer monthly saving stocks and shares Isas (individual savings account). The annual Isa allowance is £20,000.

Pound-cost-averaging can be a spur to make the most of this tax concession.

Dollar wreaks G7 havoc

SHOULD we be surprised that Britain's retail sales took a dive in August? Not at all. In spite of record temperatures the national dialogue was dominated by energy and the apocalyptic choices consumers will have to make between food and freezing – as if Britain is a country without a welfare safety net.

Reality is that the ancient Tory regime, in two packages, pumped £37bn into the economy to alleviate hardship long before Labour and various thinktanks started raising merry hell.

The result is wobbly consumer confidence and plunging retail sales.

The government of Liz Truss barely was off the starting blocks before the glorious life of Queen Elizabeth II ended.

But it is worth noting that what is being described by some as the most ideological free market government of modern times began its life with a large-scale intervention.

It is debatable whether the £100bn-plus cost of limiting domestic energy bills to £2,500 over the next two winters is the biggest such measure of recent times.

Covid-19 assistance, including furlough,

Alex Brummer

CITY EDITOR



cost £300bn at its peak. And Gordon Brown went big at the time of the banking crisis, with a £500bn rescue.

No individual or business could ignore predictions of a horrendous rise in the energy price cap.

But the idea that nothing would be done was misleading and only has served to stymie a weak recovery.

The new enemy on the block is rising interest rates.

The World Bank fears that the arms race to raise borrowing costs, to kill off inflation, exacerbates recession risks.

Western nations will find it difficult but the pain for emerging markets and developing countries will be worse.

Sri Lanka may have been the first to face

riots on the streets but it is unlikely to be the last.

Financial markets are dominated by the prospect of another 0.75 percentage point rise in the key American federal funds next week, as Federal Reserve chairman Jay Powell seeks to blot out his error of delaying the inflation fight.

The consequence is another surge in the dollar on the foreign exchange markets with the greenback in line for a full 1pc rise on the week against the currencies of its main trading partners.

The euro and Japanese yen have taken beatings but it is the pound which is the main victim, skidding to a 37-year low yesterday of \$1.1351 on the 30th anniversary of Black Wednesday.

That was the day when then Chancellor Norman Lamont revealed that his wife 'had heard him singing in the bath'.

The upswing in the dollar is reaching levels at which it may become a cause for the G7. In modern times it has only recorded year-on-year gains of 20pc against the currencies of its main competitors on four occasions.

They were in 1992 when sterling was ejected from the exchange rate mechanism (the precursor of the euro); at the turn of the millennium when a newly minted euro tumbled; in the aftermath of 2008 great financial crisis; and when the oil price col-

lapsed in 2015. This week the Bank of Japan signalled it had enough. It is hard to think that the Bank of England Governor Andrew Bailey isn't having collywobbles too.

Every rise in the dollar makes the fight against inflation harder.

Wrong orbit

THERE was a huge sigh of relief from US satellite outfit Viasat after the Department for Business, Environment & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) ruled that its £6bn bid for British satellite pioneer Inmarsat will not be scrutinised under the terms of the National Security and Investment Act.

In spite of the economic commitments Viasat has made so far on keeping a UK headquarters, research and development, and support for space education, the deal is not home and dry yet.

It still has to clear high hurdles often put up by the Competition and Markets Authority and EU regulators.

The first big decision from Whitehall since Jacob Rees-Mogg took over at the BEIS favours free markets and inward investment over retaining proprietary British satellite communications and tracking technology.

That's not a good omen for the future of the UK's depleted technology and engineering sector.

FOUNDER GORMLEY RETURNS AMID NAKED WINES CHAOS



NAKED Wines founder Rowan Gormley has returned to steady the ship.

Gormley, who set up the wine delivery service in 2008, will act as an unpaid adviser to its board.

It comes amid a torrid year for the firm. Shares fell almost 40pc on Wednesday when a director quit after less than three weeks. Pratham Ravi, who joined last month, is an analyst at Florida's Punch Card Capital, one of the biggest shareholders.

Naked has begun a business review and is trying to 'address' a credit facility that lets it borrow money

from its banks. The chaos led Liberum analyst Wayne Brown to say: 'Something has gone somewhat awry.'

Investors welcomed the return and shares rose 9.7pc, or 8.85p, to 99.9p but are down 85pc this year.

Gormley, 60, still owns 2.9pc of the business, and his position is expected to last for up to three months.

Chairman Darryl Rawlings said: 'I welcome Rowan providing his insight to us because his operational familiarity with the business and his viewpoint as a shareholder will provide a unique and valuable perspective.'

Hedge fund in legal fight over nickel debacle

By Luke Barr

BILLIONAIRE philanthropist David Harding has waded into a legal battle against one of London's oldest exchanges.

Harding's Winton Capital Management has teamed up with other hedge funds after the London Metal Exchange (LME) halted billions of pounds of nickel trades in March.

The debacle, the result of mounting sanctions against Russia after its invasion of Ukraine, sparked fury on Europe's last open outcry trading floor. The controversial cancellations took place after prices shot up by more than 50pc in hours.

This led to many traders missing out on lucrative profits, but potentially saved China's largest steel company, Tsingshan Holding Group, which was on the losing end of a significant short position.

The scandal has triggered nearly £400m of legal claims from Elliott Management and



Harding: With wife Claudia

trading firm Jane Street, both seeking a judicial review into the legality of LME actions.

US firms AQR Capital Management and Capstone Investment Advisors have been named in a separate claim with Harding, a physicist-turned-financier who is almost as well known for giving money away as he is making it. He gave £100m to his alma mater, the University of Cambridge.

He founded Winton in 1997. Court documents have revealed the severity of claims facing the LME, which has

been accused of withholding private conversations around its controversial suspension.

Questions are also being asked about JP Morgan's role.

It has been described by City sources as the 'main dealer-broker' on the trades but a source close to JP Morgan has said it had no influence over the LME's decision-making.

An upcoming High Court hearing will determine whether the historic exchange must hand over information.

AQR said: 'Given the circumstances surrounding the suspension, the unprecedented decision to cancel agreed-upon trades in these circumstances, and the LME's piecemeal disclosures regarding its actions, the applicants seek disclosure of certain documents from the LME to enable them to assess their legal position.'

An LME spokesman said: 'We consider that application to be without merit, and we look forward to setting out our arguments opposing the application in due course.'

By Mark Shapland

THE takeover of British satellite group Inmarsat by a US rival has been given the all-clear by the Government.

Business Secretary, Jacob Rees-Mogg waved through the £5.6bn acquisition by Viasat, saying it is no threat to security. The move will stoke fears about a hollowing-out of British industry as overseas predators swoop on assets.

Those fears look set to be stoked

Rees-Mogg clears £5.6 billion takeover of Inmarsat by US rival

next week with French conglomerate Schneider Electric mulling a bid for tech group Aveva ahead of a deadline on Wednesday.

The Government had been monitoring the Inmarsat takeover under the National Security and

Investment Act, which lets ministers block deals.

Viasat chief executive Mark Dankberg said: 'The clearance is another important step forward to closing the deal.'

But analyst Russ Shaw, of Tech London Advocates, said: 'I was

surprised and I am interested to see what the Business Secretary does next. His attitude could be, 'Let's get the Government out the way and let the market do their thing.' Early signs are he's not an interventionist.'

Inmarsat is Britain's leading sat-

ellite company. It is the largest provider of in-flight wifi for airlines and is a major player in internet connections for ships.

And it is still being investigated by competition regulators, with a decision expected by October 5 on whether to refer the deal for a more in-depth probe.

Meanwhile, Aveva and Schneider are talking about Schneider acquiring the 40pc of Aveva it does not already own. A September 21 deadline has been imposed by the UK takeover watchdog.

FTSE 100 7236.68 45.39 0.62%	FTSE 250 18797.14 89.18 0.47%	FTSE All Share 3976.66 23.67 0.59%	DOW 30612.98 348.84 1.13%	NIKKEI 27567.65 308.26 1.11%	HANG SENG 18761.69 168.69 0.89%	DAX 12741.26 215.40 1.66%	Brent Spot 92.10 1.26 1.39%	Gold 1666.26 17.94 1.07%
H:7672.40 L:6903.91	H:23896.65 L:18315.31	H:4296.96 L:3862.39	H:36799.65 L:29888.78	H:30500.05 L:24717.53	H:26136.02 L:18415.08	H:16271.75 L:12401.20	H:123.58 L:88.00	H:1853.07 L:1666.26
£/\$ 1.1417 H:1.3821 L:1.1469	£/€ 1.1403 H:1.2102 L:1.1488	Tourist Rates	Aus\$ 1.62 Can\$ 1.45	DenKr 8.11 Euro€ 1.09	JpnY 156.33 NZ\$ 1.79	SAR 18.93 SwFr 1.05	TurkI 19.96 US\$ 1.09	
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Post Office pays the price for big losses and strikes

SHARES in Royal Mail plunged after a broker painted a bleak outlook for its future.

In a blow to the FTSE 250 postal group, JP Morgan lowered the stock's rating to 'neutral' from 'overweight', and cut the target price to 270p from 360p.

'This reflects growing losses in the UK, with no end in sight and potential for losses to climb further,' the broker said. Shares fell 8.1pc, or 20.2p, to 229.7p.

The slump was made worse after the US parcels giant FedEx issued a profit warning. Its shares tumbled 22pc in New York.

JP Morgan said shares in Royal Mail, which floated in London in 2013, were unlikely to improve while it remained locked in battle with the CWU trade union.

Workers at the postal group were set to go on strike this month but cancelled their action 'out of respect' for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

JP Morgan lowered its forecast for Royal Mail's parcel volumes for the full financial year in 2023,

MARKET REPORT



By **John Abiona**

expecting a 16.6pc decline compared with a 12.1pc fall last year.

It caps a difficult year for the group, which tumbled out of the FTSE 100 in June. Its shares are down nearly 56pc in 2022.

On a day of little corporate news, the FTSE 100 dipped 0.6pc, or 45.39 points, to 7236.68 and the FTSE 250 fell 0.5pc, or 89.18 points, to 18797.14.

The mood was not helped by the pound tumbling to a 37-year low as a slump in retail sales fuelled fears of a recession.

AJ Bell analyst Danni Hewson said: 'People are clearly thinking hard about what they spend their money on.'

It's just not stretching as far as

it used to, and essentials have to come first. But even essentials are costing more and with the spectre of unmanageable fuel bills looming large people did the only thing they could – cut back.'

Intercontinental Hotels Group, the owner of Holiday Inn and Crowne Plaza chains, was also hit with a broker downgrade. Citigroup lowered the stock's rating to 'sell' from 'neutral', and cut the target price to 4450p from 5000p. It fell 4.7pc, or 229p, to 4670p.

Outsourcer **Capita** did its best to lift spirits after a double dose of good news. One of the Government's largest contractors, it has agreed to offload payments arm Pay360 to the business software company The Access Group. Capita expects this to bring in around £156m, which will help shore up its balance sheet.

The group also landed an extension to its contract with Barnet Council, from next September when a ten-year deal runs out.

It could be worth up to £57m. Capita shares rose 12.6pc, or 3.22p, to 28.74p. Wickes rose but

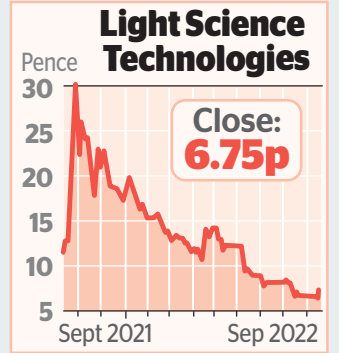
was dealt a further blow only a day after the home improvement business said customers had cut spending on big ticket items such as sofas.

Citigroup cut the target price to 200p from 260p as the shares climbed 2.2pc, or 2.8p, to 129.4p.

One of online grocer **Ocado's** non-executive directors – Swedish billionaire Jorn Rausing – bought 422,004 shares for 644p each, worth almost £3m, only days after it left investors spooked by a sales warning. It climbed 3.2pc, or 21p, to 671p.

AstraZeneca was boosted after a regulator backed its coronavirus therapy to treat the disease and endorsed a second treatment used to prevent lower respiratory tract infections caused by respiratory syncytial virus (RSV).

The European Medicines Agency endorsed Evusheld as a Covid treatment for adults and adolescents. Its recommendations are usually followed by the European Commission which has the final say-so on approvals. Astra inched down 0.1pc, or 8p, to 10122p.



■ **LIGHT Science Technologies Holdings** soared after an update on a key contract.

It is developing a device that uses technology such as LED lighting to provide data on plant life and soil health so farmers can grow more.

The first of four stages under its contract with salad producer Zenith Nurseries has been completed and generated £51,000. A phase to use a device on new polytunnels has been brought forward and could rake in £1.9m. It rose 12.5pc, or 0.75p, to 6.75p.

Aerospace & Defence	High	Low
Aston Martin	178½	1963½
BAE Systems	764¼	838½
Chemring Gp	286½	267½
QinetiQ	328	394¼
Rolls-Royce	75¼	147½
TI Fluid Systems	144½	287½

Banks	High	Low
Banco Santander	229	290½
Bank of Georgia	2085	2205
Barclays	171	217½
HSBC Hldgs	529½	567¼
Lloyds Banking	47¼	55½
NatWest Group	272½	274¼
Stan Chartered	602½	638½
TBC Bank	1734	1912
Virgin Money UK	149½	218½

Beverages	High	Low
Britvic	759	949½
C&C Group	160½	264¼
Coca-Cola HBC	1920	2687
Diageo	3745½	4103½

Chemicals	High	Low
Croda Intnl	6430½	138104
Elementis	108½	157¼
Johnson Matt	1984	2763
Synthomer	165½	524½
Victrex	1671	2538

Construction & Materials	High	Low
Balfour Beatty	334½	340½
CRH	3082½	4002
Genuit Group	341½	734
Grafton Gp	737½	1381
Ibstock	190¼	217½
Marshall	343½	786½
Tyman	207	443½
Volusion	317½	557

Electricity	High	Low
Contour Global	254½	258
Drax Gp	690½	831½
SSE	1745½	1920

Electronic & Electrical Equipment	High	Low
Halma	2000	3216
Morgan Advanced	244½	392
Oxford Instruments	2000	2665
Renishaw	3546	5480
Spectris	2761	4083

Equity Investment Instruments	High	Low
3i Infrastructure	334½	366½
Aberforth Smir Cos	1180	1550
AJ Bell	273¼	426¼
Alliance Trust	961	1078
Allianz Tech	228	370
Apax Global	163½	235
AVI Global Trust	185½	222
Baillie Giff Japan	748	1086
Bankers InvTst	101¼	125
BBGI Global	172½	180½
BelleVue Hlthcare	173	208
BlackRock SmI	1288	2175
BlkRckWldMnng	602½	792
Caledonia Inv	3450	4100
Chrysalis Inv	63½	272

TOP RISERS	CLOSING PRICE	DAILY CHANGE	REASON
IWG	144.20	+5.83%	AGM update
Jupiter Fund Mngt	108.30	+5.66%	Broker rating
FirstGroup	125.00	+5.49%	Bounce back
Provident Financial	190.20	+5.08%	Shareholder raises stake
Hammerson	22.00	+4.96%	Recovers losses

City of London IT	High	Low	Food Producers	High	Low
Edin Inv Trust	587	657	Assoc Brit Foods	1324½	2131
Edin Wldw	184¼	335	Cranswick	2882	58
European Opp	672	891	Greencore Gp	82¼	146½
F&C Inv Trust	894	25	Hilton Food Gp	664	11
Fidelity China	237	342	Premier Foods	103¼	126¼
Fidelity Emg	603	42	Tate & Lyle	701½	906½
Fidelity Eur	286	345	Unilever	3944	25
Fidelity Spec Val	261	315	Forestry & Paper		
Finsbury G&I Tst	826	930	Mondi	1450½	231
GCP Infra Inv	105	118	General Financial		
Global Smaller	137½	177	3i Group	1134	2
Greenoat UK	166¼	166	Ashmore Gp	223¼	29
Harbournvest	2070	30	BR Throgmorton	537	1016
Henderson Sml Co	779½	2	Brewin Dolphin	514	517
Herald Inv Trust	1668	10	Bridgepoint Group	266	569
HGC Capital Trust	375	454	Capital Gearing	5090	20
HIL Infra	176½	183	Coats Group	572	81
Hipgnosis Songs	100	129	CMC Markets	225	3
ICG Enterprise	1020	26	Coats Group	572	81
Impax Enviro Mkts	425	583	Hargraves Lansdown	854½	4
JPM American	732½	22	IG Gp	792	857
JPM Emerg Mkt	1304	137	Integratn	254	114
JPM Euro Disc	377	582	Intermediate Cap	1212½	6
JPM Japan IT	450	52	Intl Public Ptnshps	162½	174
Jupiter Fund	108¼	265	Investec	384¼	536
Law Debenture	716	830	IP Group	70½	140
LXI REIT	147½	154	JTC	757	20
M&G	201½	227¼	London Stock Ex	7786½	16
Mercantile IT	180½	283	Man Group	245½	9
Molten Ventures	339¼	1154	OSB Group	519½	11
Monks Inv Tst	1031	1450	Paragon	499¼	1167
Morgan Sindall	1626	8	Pershing Partners	216	350
Murray Inc Tst	798½	6	Plus500	1679½	18
Ninety One	1234	1320	Provident Financial	190½	381
Nurel Int'l	201¼	277½	Quilter	102½	185
Pantheon Intl	262	351	Rathbone Gp	1878½	22
Pershing Square	2840½	3115	Ruffer Investment	294	2
Personal Assets Tr	483½	509	Schroders	2518	68
Polar Cap Tech	1940	28	SDCL Energy	114½	125
Renewables Infra	145½	147¼	Temple Bar	215½	23
RIT Cap Partners	2275	25	TP ICAP	164½	48
Schroder Asia	511	3	Health Care Equipment & Services		
Schroder Oriental	261	276	Convec	223½	245
Smt American Inv	470½	543	Medinol Int'l	492	301
Scottish Mortgage	828	1543½	Smith & Neph	1055	5
Sueqia Econ Infra	88¼	111½	Spire Health	232½	2
Synthon Inv	1258	31	Housebuilders		
Syncona	172½	129	Barratt Devel	429	4
Templeton Ent	145¼	189	Bayway	1993	19
Vietnam Emr	681	4	Berkeley Gp	3595	3
VinaCapital Vietna	495	32	Countrywide	255½	4
Witan Invest	220½	257			
Wwde Healthcare	3340	40			
XP Power	1804½	128			

TOP FALLERS	CLOSING PRICE	DAILY CHANGE	REASON
Royal Mail	229.70	-8.08%	Analyst note
Darktrace	353.70	-7.51%	Sector concerns
Syncona	172.80	-6.80%	Sell-off continues
XP Power	1804.00	-6.63%	Industry woes
Greencore Gp	82.25	-4.69%	Positive outlook

	High	Low		High	Low		High	Low							
0	+4	4134	220	Endeavour Mining.....	1661xd+5	210	1510	TR Property IT.....	345	+6	504	33			
2	-22	2883	1421	Evraz.....	81	646	53	Tritax Big Box.....	162½		249	15			
2	-24	1717	74	Ferrexpo.....	151½	324	107	Tritax Eurobox.....	79½	+4	117¼	7			
2	-4	178	103	Fresnillo.....	730½d-1¼	986¼	622	UK Comm Prop.....	68¼	+2¾	93½	9			
2	-2	1261½	725	Glencore.....	489½xd-12¼	541½	312	Unit Group.....	1001	+1	1207	99			
				Hochschild Mining.....	59½d	+2	173½	58½	Urban Logistics.....	168½	+2	199	11		
				Rio Tinto.....	4785½xd+15	+6225	4375½	Workspace Gp.....	507	+3	887	49			
Nonlife Insurance															
6xd-55	4180	2655		Admiral Gp.....	2272xd+10	3455	1729	ASOS.....	632	-17	3345	33			
2	-22	440½	312	Beazley.....	625	-2½	628	370¼	B&M.....	337½	-7½	64	33		
4	-20¼	526¼	229¼	Direct Line Ins.....	212	-4	312	193¼	Burberry Gp.....	1724	-5½	2063	14		
				Hiscox.....	936½xd-4¼	990¼	792¼	Currys.....	65½xd+2½	140½	5				
				Lancashire Hldgs.....	546	604½	346½	Dr. Martens.....	260	+1¼	429¼	18			
Oil & Gas Producers															
2	-1	912½	500	BP.....	452xd-4½	463½	303¼	Dunelm Gp.....	782½+2½	1486	67				
4xd+22	3072	1729		Capricorn Energy.....	235½	+2	242½	172	Fraser's Group.....	786	-15½	949½	56		
2	-1	373½	232¼	Diversified Energy.....	127½xd-2¼	142	98½	Groeggs.....	1971xd+9	3416	18				
2	-9	441	260½	Energean.....	1430	+38	1454	792½	Howden Joinery.....	568¼	-8	975½	55		
16	-1629	1355½		Harbour Energy.....	480½d-7½	530	298½	Inchcape.....	737	-12	928	6			
6	-64	4168	2623	Shell.....	2296½xd-18	2440	1833½	JD Sports Fashion.....	125¼	-28	234	10			
70-310	17135	9100		Tullow Oil.....	47½d-1½	62¼	39½	Kingfisher.....	247¼	-1½	368	22			
4xd+50	520½	284½						Marks & Spencer.....	114¼	-12	256½	11			
4	-27	1897	1328½					Moopnig.....	200	-2¼	384	17			
								Next.....	5808	-40	8426	57			
5	-20	11210	6005	Wood Gp(J).....	143½	+1¼	251¼	127½	Ocado Gp.....	671	+21	1897½	62		
8	-1518	737						Pets at Home Gp.....	307	-2¼	519	21			
Pharmaceuticals & Biotechnology															
8xd-18	263½	141½		AstraZeneca.....	10122	-8	11440	8191	Sainsbury(J).....	202¼	-1¼	306½	19		
8xd-28	602½	382¼		Decra Pharma.....	2950	-138	5365	2950	SSP Group.....	219	-5¼	303¼	20		
4	-95	63		Genus.....	2782	+20	5765	2234	Tesco.....	231½	-2	303½	23		
8xd-18	307¼	233¼		GSK.....	1321½xd-16	+1810	1321½	WH Smith.....	1414	-53½	1805½	13			
4	-701½	588¼		Hikma Pharma.....	1253½xd-22	2474	1231½								
8xd+64	1509	881		Indivior.....	291½	-5	336¼	209¼	Auction Tech.....	819	-20	1516	7		
3xd-2	1731½	1044		Peck Cussons.....	192½	-4	233½	182¼	Aveva Gp.....	3052	+27	4032	19		
				Reckitt Benckiser.....	6260½xd-112	6808	5391		Baltic Classifieds.....	146½xd+1½	253	9			
Real Estate															
0xd+35	4045	2240		Assura.....	63½xd+1½	75½	59½	Bytes Technology.....	423¼	-3½	578½	3			
2	-2484	195		Big Yellow Gp.....	1215	+27	1724	1188	Computacenter.....	2098	-22	2978	20		
4xd-6	741¼	499½		British Land.....	410½	+1¼	556	405½	Dairktake.....	3153¼	-29¼	985	28		
7	-2	1466	829	Capitl & Count Prop.....	118½xd+2	179¼	115½	Kainos Gp.....	1375	-17	2084	95			
7	-38	3830	1486	CLS Hldgs.....	174	+2½	235	171¼	Macro Focus Intl.....	519½	-4	520¼	25		
8	-1	624	654½	Derwent London.....	2438½d-16	3679	2312	NCC Gp.....	233	+3	281½	16			
8	-125½	614		Grainger.....	265	+8	319¼	258¼	Playtech.....	451	-3½	770	4		
2	-225½	167		Hart Portland Est.....	737	779	700	Sage Group.....	718½	+8½	853½	59			
8xd-5	923¼	571¼		Hammerston.....	22	+1	39½	19	Softcat.....	1183	-11	2214	11		
2	-10	2449	2071	Land Securities.....	612½xd-5¼	813¼	612½	Ashtead Gp.....	4262	-40	6450	33			
8	-9	800½	531	LondonMetric Prop.....	208½xd+1¼	285¼	201¼	Babcock Intl.....	320¼	-1¼	380¼	29			
2	-24	1224	725¼	Primary Hlth Prop.....	132¼	+1½	161½	Biffa.....	372½xd-12¼	415¼	2				
				Safestore Hldgs.....	985	+16½	1418	968½	Bunzl.....	2737	-14	3163	23		
				Savills.....	916½xd+2	1450	902	DOC.....	4717	-118	6486	47			
				SEGRO.....	883½xd+6	1436½	877½	Diploma.....	2494	+6	3460	21			
				Shaftebury.....	406½	+3¼	662	397	Essentra.....	193½	-8	357	18		
				Serius Real Estate.....	82	+3	144	78½	Experian.....	2661	-22	3667	22		
				Supermarket Income.....	117½	+3	133	116½	Ferguson.....	9790	-124	13305	86		
				Target Healthcare.....	106½	+4	119¼	10							

Hays	High	Low
Homeserve	1188	1190
Intertek Gp	3897	5782
IWG	144¼	310
Mitie Group	73½	79¼
Network Int	293½	370¼
Pagegroup	393½	680½
Rentokil Initial	519	636¼
RS Group	1040	1255
Serco	161½	188¼
Travis Perkins	826½	1746

Technology Hardware & Equipment	High	Low
discoverIE Gp	725	1152
Spirant Comms	262½	298¼

Telecoms	High	Low
Airtel Africa	135¼	170½
BT Gp	139	200½
Helios Towers	126¼	289
Telecom Plus	1794	2250
Vodafone Gp	108½	139½

Tobacco	High	Low
Br Am Tob	3450½	3628
Imperial Brands	1910½	21952½

Travel & Leisure					
888 Holdings	118	+1	478	116%	
Carnival	812	-20	1766%	619%	
Compass Gp	1875	-50%	1969	1440%	
Dominos Pizza	244	xd	-8	465	226%
easyJet	346	-13	727	345%	
Entain	1213	xd	-20%	2377	1075%

FIGHT FOR THE AGES

Pre-eminent pugilists of this era do battle in trilogy epic



JEFF POWELL

Boxing
Correspondent
in Las Vegas

THERE are slugfests which rouse the blood lust. There are games of cat-and-mouse which empty the hall.

There are highly technical duels of rarefied skills which absorb the connoisseurs but leave the thrill-seeking voyeurs cold.

There are clashes of differing styles which collude in the making of fine fights.

There are mismatches so unbalanced that they threaten with grievous bodily harm the opponents hired for the purpose of being beaten. Or worse.

Occasionally, two men equipped with the full compendium of the prize-ring's many talents engage in stupendous combat.

They elevate the hardest of all games to the pinnacle of a noble art. They do so with razor expertise. With thunderous concussive punching which each withstands with a jaw of stone and a heart of oak.

For such spectacles to scale perfection demands they should be a pair of the greatest fighters of their generation.

It is on that premise we have been lured to this cathedral city of boxing by Canelo Alvarez and Gennady Golovkin. It is on their promise that they have worked like slaves to turn back the years so as to re-present themselves in their trilogy fight here tomorrow as masters of their universe.

Each has reigned in recent years as the best pound-for-pound fighter on earth. Each insists his star has tilted on its axis by force of circumstance rather than being dimmed by the passage of time and so many brutal fights.

Ask Canelo, the flame-haired Mexican, who is the greatest pugilist on the planet today, and his answer is not Oleksandr Usyk, who has dislodged Anthony Joshua as the major shareholder in the heavyweight crown.

'Me,' says Alvarez. 'I am the one who keeps taking on the big



Close encounters: Canelo (left) and Golovkin in their second fight, which the Mexican won GETTY IMAGES

challenges. Still the undisputed super-middleweight champion.' He says so even though he suffered a second loss of his career, against Russian light-heavyweight Dmitry Bivol, in his last fight. He blames that defeat on taking it for granted that he could handle the bigger man. He denies that the wear and tear of 61 fights has taken its toll even though he is still only 32.

'I'm in my prime,' he says. 'I'm at my perfect weight now at 168 lbs. I feel fresh and strong. I'm excited by this fight, one of the most important in my career.'

Ask Golovkin, the Kazakh KO king if 40, which he has just turned, is a dangerous age for a fighter and he says: 'I feel as young as ever. I live the perfect healthy life. I am ready to avenge the decisions Canelo was given over me in our first two fights.'

And no, he does not agree that he looked a little jaded in the most

recent of the interim fights he won while waiting four years for Alvarez to return to their bitter fray.

Triple G believes he won their first fight, which was scored a draw, and probably their second, judged in favour of Canelo.

A feud has festered in the meantime. Says Alvarez: 'He is not the nice person he pretends to be. I am motivated by the crap he has said about me. I am driven to punish him badly by knowing that when I beat him again it may well bring the end of his career.'

Says Golovkin: 'I don't know why this fight is so personal for him but I do want to knock him out for the sake of clean, fair boxing.' Whether that is reference to Canelo failing a drugs test in the middle of this rivalry or to the controversial judging of the first two fights, he leaves unspoken.

What they do agree upon is that they are two of the pre-eminent

fighters of this era. Both have overwhelming win records, packed with knockouts. Golovkin has scary one-hit power, while Alvarez inflicts deep hurt by cumulative punching. But such is the punch resistance of both that they have withstood countless bombs landed on each other in parts one and two of a series coming to a glorious climax now in the T-Mobile Arena.

That prospect is heightened by a potent concoction of raging will to crush an arch-enemy and anxiety about the repercussions of defeat. 'They've given us 24 fantastic rounds already,' says promoter Eddie Hearn. 'This one can be even more amazing. Defeat could be the end for Gennady, or leave Canelo outside the world's top 10. Victory would enshrine the legacy of either.'

Ah, that word legacy. Alvarez uses it when he says he 'must win for myself, for my country on this

TALE OF THE TAPE

CANELO	GOLOVKIN
32	Age..... 40
5ft 8in	Height..... 5ft 10in
61	Fights..... 44
57	Wins..... 42
39	Wins by KO..... 37
2	Draws..... 1
2	Losses..... 1
70in	Reach..... 70in
Orthodox	Stance..... Orthodox
Mexico	Nationality Kazakhstan

Mexican Independence weekend, for my many fans coming to Vegas, for the millions watching in the pueblos back home.'

Golovkin uses it when he talks of 'repairing the hurt of those decisions which scarred my perfect record even though I believe I'm undefeated.'

The fires of pride are stoked to a furnace. Which of them is in the greater danger of being burned? The casino sports books on the Strip are in no doubt, with Alvarez their odds-on favourite.

Yet Golovkin, who has not fought in his native Kazakhstan for 12 years, is so accustomed to campaigning abroad that he was unaffected by the cacophonous support for Canelo at the first two fights in this very building.

Triple G ponders whether he needs a knockout to win. Canelo would prefer 'to put an end to this beyond all doubt by stopping him inside the 12 rounds.'

Most likely it will go to a decision. Hopefully one beyond dispute. Neither Las Vegas nor boxing can afford yet another night of questionable judging in a fight of this magnitude.

The eight-year age gap should give Canelo the edge in another memorably close fight but victory for him is not the foregone conclusion many here believe.

And whoever prevails must be the rightful and deserving winner of this fight for the ages, however narrowly. All those involved in this potential epic and the very sport itself deserve nothing less. Canelo and GGG included.

**Alvarez v Golovkin will be televised late tonight on DAZN pay-per-view.*

Leeds march on to final as Smith's men roll back years

ROB BURROW and Danny McGuire were still playing when Leeds Rhinos were last crowned Super League champions in 2017.

Now Rohan Smith's class of 2022 have the chance to write their own piece of history after a quite stunning victory.

Around 4,000 travelling supporters floated out of the DW Stadium last night, scarcely believing the staggering turnaround their club has enjoyed this season.

'Marching on Together,' they chanted after the Rhinos sealed their place at Old Trafford next Saturday. They will face defending champions St Helens

RUGBY LEAGUE

WIGAN WARRIORS 8

LEEDS RHINOS 20

ROSS HEPPENSTALL

at the DW Stadium

or Salford — who meet in the second play-off semi-final today — aiming to win a ninth Grand Final. Wigan battered Leeds' line for much of the opening 40 minutes but had only Liam Marshall's clinically-executed try to show for it. Eight-time champions Leeds gradually

warmed to their task and a dramatic turn of events shortly after half-time set them on the road to victory.

First, hooker Jarrod O'Connor scampered over the line, before Wigan then lost star man Bevan French to a foot injury. James Bentley added a second Leeds try and the visitors had England forward John Bateman sent off for a dangerous high tackle. Leeds were on their knees earlier this year when Richard Agar quit as head coach just six games into the season. Yet the transformation since Smith arrived from Australia in May has been quite staggering.

The Rhinos trailed here when Marshall dived over the line in typically acrobatic fashion. That poured confidence into Wigan and they began to dominate. But they could not make their pressure pay and Zak Hardaker's penalty got them off the mark after Bevan French picked up a knock. The Rhinos attacked the end where their huge and vociferous support was housed in the second half.

After Zane Tetevano was denied from close range, O'Connor scampered over the line. French then departed in clear discomfort before Bentley touched down a kick from

Aidan Sezer inside the right channel, with Hardaker converting to put Leeds 14-4 up. Moments later, Sezer launched a kick downfield and was caught late and high by Bateman, who was dismissed. Leeds had their third try when Bentley dived over the line in the final quarter, only for Sam Powell to score a late consolation try for Wigan.

WATCHING BRIEF...

ST HELENS v SALFORD RED DEVILS

Kick-off: 1pm, Totally Wicked Stadium. TV: **LIVE** on Sky Sports.

Evans: Federer's the best, but still a normal bloke

DAN EVANS knew he was starting to make it in tennis when he had the royal summons from Roger Federer to practise with him.

That was in Dubai eight years ago, and in the intervening period he has twice made visits to his base in Switzerland to act as a sparring partner.

So the British No2, who last night put GB 1-0 up against the Netherlands in their must-win Davis Cup qualifier with two to play, will be sorry to see the Swiss legend finally step away after the Laver Cup in London next week.

'Roger was cool, I think the biggest compliment I can give him is he was a very, very normal, down-to-earth person who obviously had king-like status in the sport,'

MIKE DICKSON

Tennis Correspondent in Glasgow

reflected Evans after a 6-4, 6-4 victory over Tallon Griekspoor.

'He treated me, and he treats everybody exactly like the normal bloke on the street would treat his mate. He would say hello to everybody on tour. He'll be sorely missed — it will be different for the older guys not to have him around.'

'He's obviously a very good partner to be able to practise with. I think he would be missed.'

'Obviously to be as good as he was he obviously wasn't nice to everybody, I'm sure, but an amazing competitor.' Evans was again preferred to Andy Murray to play

the second singles, and repaid the faith placed in him by captain Leon Smith after narrowly losing to America's Tommy Paul in the opening rubber.

That was followed by a surprisingly one-sided defeat for Cam Norrie (right), who went down 6-4, 6-2 to Dutch No1 Botić van de Zandschulp. As against the USA, Norrie made a slow start but he could not turn it around.

It meant that Britain's hopes of making November's

world finals rested on last night's deciding doubles that saw Murray partnering Joe Salisbury against Wesley Koolhof and Matwe Middelkoop. With two teams going through from four, defeat would mean an instant exit.

While he always looked to have too much guile for world No48 Griekspoor, Evans briefly got sidetracked by the animated support from the orange-clad Dutch fans at the Emirates Arena. 'It's something I need to work on,' he admitted. 'It's not the best part of my game.'

In this atmosphere it's even more key not to lose focus. There's a lot

happening on the court, around the court. There's away fans, it was difficult.'

Meanwhile the WTA Tour denied that it plans to return to China before it has received satisfactory proof that Peng Shuai is living safely and freely in the country.

A press release this week hinted that the year-end finals may go back to Shenzhen in 2023 after being relocated to Texas this year.

WTA chief executive Steve Simon said nothing will happen before the situation is resolved.

'The WTA continues to work towards a resolution in China and are hopeful we will be in a position to operate events in the region in 2023 and beyond, but we will not compromise our founding principles in order to do so,' he said.



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SCAN ME

GOODFELLOW'S SUNDAY BEST

HAMILTON

1.30 Installation

2.00 Fox Hill

2.30 Grifter

3.00 Maddy Too

3.30 Burtonlodge Beauty (nb)

4.00 CLAN JOCK (nap)

4.30 Kanzino PLUMPTON

1.50 Mordred

2.20 Heronord

2.50 Executive Pool

3.20 See The Sea

3.50 Coal Stock

4.20 Andapa

4.50 Alien Storm

CATTERICK RTV

1.48—NURSERY (5) (2-Y-O) £8,000 added (£3,996) 7f 6yds (11)

1 (3) 141 ON THE PULSE 30 (D) (S) P Evans 9-11 O Lewis (7)
2 (11) 335 SPIRADALTA 23 (P) M Walford 9-8 D Costello
3 (7) 860 AIHAWAWI 21 D O'Meara 9-6 B Robinson
4 (2) 5P6 ACT OF WILL 14 D Brooke 9-6 J Garrity
5 (8) 412 HUNKPAPA 5 (B) B Meehan 9-6 H Russell (3)
6 (9) 567 GINCIDENT 29 R Fahey 9-5 T Hamilton
7 (6) 32L TANZANITE 23 K R Burke 9-2 H Shaw
8 (4) 939 JINXSTER 14 (P) A Keatley 9-1 C Murtagh
9 (10) 175 VALSTAR 14 (P) T Easterly 9-1 S B Kirrane (3)
10 (5) 504 UNITARIAN 37 (P) K R Burke 9-1 S James
11 (1) 741 SOLITARY TREES (libex) 6 (P) (S) G Boughy 8-4 S Osborne (3)

Probable SP: 3 On The Pulse, 4 Solitary Trees, 9-2 Hunkpapa, 8 Spioradalta, 10 Aihawawi, 12 Unitarian, 14 Gincident, 16 Act Of Will, 20 Jinxster.

2.23—RESTRICTED MAIDEN STAKES (5) (2-Y-O) £7,000 added (£3,780) 5f 21yds (8)

1 (5) 602 HARDY ANGEL 19 (T) T Easterly 9-7 S B Kirrane (3)
2 (4) 60 LAST STAND 3 K R Burke 9-7 B Garrity
3 (1) 93L MAHALIK 24 (BF) K R Burke 9-7 S James
4 (6) THE COMPAS MAN A Keatley 9-2 C Murtagh
5 (3) 243 WERENOTREALLYHERE 19 (B) J J Quinn 9-7 H Shaw
6 (12) 431 ARTISTIC DREAMER M Appleby 9-2 Erika Parkinson (7)
7 (2) 732 OUR FLORENTINE 6 (P) G Boughy 9-2 S Osborne (3)
8 (7) 2 POP WORLD 21 M Dods 9-2 J P Dennis

Probable SP: 6-4 Pop World, 7-2 Mahalik, 9-2 Werentreallyhere, 6 Hardy Angel, 7 Our Florentine, 20 Artistic Dreamer.

2.58—HANDICAP (6) £7,000 added (£3,456) 5f 21yds (12)

1 (3) 188 LE CHEVAL RAPIDE 17 (B) (S) D Carroll 4-9-9
2 (10) 314 WADE'S MAGIC 6 (P) (C&D3) (GS) T Easterly 5-9-9

3 (6) 385 DAPPER MAN 20 (P) (CD) (GS) R Fell 8-9-7 J Peate (5)
4 (12) 406 PORTELET BAY 4 (BT) (D3BF2) (GS) P Evans 4-9-7
5 (8) 733 BLAZING SON 11 (P) B Smart 4-9-7 H Shaw
6 (4) 614 TASHGHEEL 18 (B) (D) (S) G Tuer 4-9-6 S James
7 (9) 948 SYDNEY BAY 43 (P) Mrs A Duffield 3-9-5 Joanna Mason
8 (11) 646 JACKMEISTER RUDI 11 (D) (S) K Scott 3-9-5 B Garrity
9 (7) 732 DIRCHILL 21 (B) (C&D5) D Thompson 9-9-4
10 (4) 9LL COWBOY SOLDIER 21 (T) C Teague 7-9-4 Paula Muir (3)
11 (5) 773 GULLANE ONE 18 (PT) (D7) (GS) T Easterly 7-9-4 S B Kirrane (3)

12 (1) 457 FINAL ACCOUNT 19 (V) R Fahey 3-9-2 T Hamilton

Probable SP: 9-2 Tashgheel, 6 Portelet Bay, Blazing Son, Wade's Magic, Gullane One, 7 Dirchill, 10 Jackmeister Rudi, 12 Sydney Bay, Final Account, 16 Dapper Man.

3.33—NURSERY (5) (2-Y-O) £8,000 added (£3,996) 5f (11)

1 (11) 627 STRENGTH 'N HONOUR 23 (P) C Fellowes 9-9

2 (4) 063 AZUCENA 21 Mrs A Duffield 9-7 Joanna Mason
3 (7) 132 CASTAN 18 (DBF) B Smart 9-7 H Shaw
4 (10) 016 TEATIME TIPPLO 10 (H) T Coyle 9-3 P Mathers
5 (1) 394 GOOSE ROCK 17 (BT) G Scott 9-1 J Garrity
6 (3) 614 DIXIEDOODLEDRAAGON 18 (D) (S) K Dalgleish 9-0 B Robinson
7 (2) 462 KODI DANCER 5 (DBF) K R Burke 9-0 S James
8 (2) 212 HOWYANDAN 18 (P) T Easterly 8-13 S B Kirrane (3)
9 (6) 614 DOCTOR MOZART 18 (V) P Evans 8-11 O Lewis (7)
10 (5) 903 CHEYENNE NATION 18 M Dods 8-11 B Garrity
11 (9) 911 LUMACHO (libex) 2 (D2) (S) G Boughy 9-2 S Osborne (3)

Probable SP: 3 Lumacho, 9-2 Castan, 5 Kodi Dancer, 8 Howyandan, Azucena, 12 Cheyenne Nation, Doctor Mozart.

4.08—HANDICAP (4) £12,000 added (£6,156) 1m 5f 19yds (8)

1 (8) 052 IN THE BREEZE 21 M Appleby 4-10-3 F Larson (5)
2 (5) 048 MAGNA MORALIA 19 (GS) J J Quinn 5-9-13 D Costello
3 (3) 34L BELVIES DERBYDAY 23 (P) (D) C & M Johnston 4-9-10 A Breslin (3)
4 (6) 80-2 MELBURNIAN 12 (T) (S) R Menzies 7-9-8 P Mathers
5 (1) 944 PUNTO BANCO 36 G Tuer 3-9-6 S James
6 (2) 312 QOYA 15 (T) (BF) W Haggas 3-9-3 S Donohoe
7 (4) 516 BOLLIN NEIL 17 (P) (C&D2CD3) (S) T Easterly 6-9-3 Brandon Wilkie (7)

8 (7) 847 ZIMMERMAN 29 (P) (S) T Easterly 3-9-2 S B Kirrane (3)

Probable SP: 9-4 Qoya, 11-4 In The Breeze, 5 Melburnian, 7 Punto Banco, 10 Balleys Derbyday, Zimmerman, 12 Magna Moralia.

ROBIN GOODFELLOW

1.48 On The Pulse
2.23 We're not really here
2.58 Dirchill
3.33 Lumacho
4.08 Melburnian
4.40 Breckland
5.15 Bastille
5.50 Licit

4.40—HANDICAP (DIV 1) (6) £7,000 added (£3,456) 7f 6yds (12)

1 (9) 121 BRECKLAND 11 (C&D2) (S) K Dalgleish 4-9-13 B Garrity
2 (8) 117 UNASHAMED 50 (D) G Tuer 4-9-9 S James
3 (7) 141 ROUND THE ISLAND 2 (P) (C&D) (GS) Simon Whitaker 9-9-5 P Dennis
4 (1) 642 HOW BIZARRE 24 (BT) (D2) (GS) Liam Bailey 7-9-3 J Garrity

5 (3) 60-9 WRITTEN BROADCAST 26 (P) (D) O Pears 5-9-1 H Russell (3)

6 (6) 724 SUMMER SECRETS 19 (V) R Fahey 3-9-0 T Hamilton
7 (2) 547 ONE MORE DREAM 21 (T) J J Quinn 3-8-12 B Robinson

8 (12) 673 JOSIEBOND 11 (P) (D) (GS) M Walford 6-8-11 D Costello

9 (5) 867 TWO SUMMERS 40 (H) A Keatley 3-8-9 C Murtagh
10 (11) 516 COMBATANT COMMANDER 22 (T) T Easterly 3-8-9 Joanna Mason

11 (10) 66-1 DARK ECLIPSE 47 (PT) F Watson 6-8-9 H Shaw
12 (4) 060 VAMOS CHICA 114 J Jardine 3-8-6 F McManoman (3)

Probable SP: 7-2 Breckland, 4 Round The Island, 5 How Bizarre, Summer Secrets, 8 Unashamed, 10 Josiebond, 14 Written Broadcast, One More Dream, Combatant Commander.

5.15—HANDICAP (DIV 2) (6) £7,000 added (£3,456) 7f 6yds (12)

1 (5) 449 MR STRUTTER 20 (C&D3CD2) (GS) D Thompson 8-9-9 P Mathers

2 (3) L04 THE SEDBERGHIAN 33 (H) (D) M Walford 4-9-8 J Garrity
3 (1) 337 BASTILLE 10 (B) T Easterly 3-9-4 S B Kirrane (3)
4 (9) 786 ELLADORA 17 (S) K Scott 4-9-1 B Garrity

5 (4) 525 DESERT DREAM 24 (T) (D2) (S) S Spencer 8-9-0 D Costello

6 (2) 000 ARDAT 18 A Keatley 3-8-13 C Murtagh
7 (8) 123 STONEY LANE 10 (P) (D2) (S) Simon Whitaker 7-9-10 Joanna Mason

8 (12) 131 BILLY WEDGE 15 (D2) N Michie 7-8-9 S Breslin (3)
9 (7) 260 AUDIT 18 (B) Carr 3-8-9 H Shaw
10 (6) 097 TARNHELM 18 (G) W Storey 7-8-9 Paula Muir (3)

11 (10) 545 MISS SNUGGLES 29 Mrs A Duffield 3-8-6 R Ffrench
12 (11) LL4 TILSWORTH JADE 27 J R Jenkins 3-8-6 F McManoman (3)

Probable SP: 7-2 Stoney Lane, 5 Desert Dream, 13-2 Elladora, 7 The Sedberghian, Mr Strutter, 8 Bastille, 10 Miss Snuggles, 12 Billy Wedge, 14 Tarnhelm, Audit.

5.50—WAYNE GARDINER MEMORIAL HANDICAP (5) £8,000 added (£3,996) 1m 4f 13yds (10)

1 (9) 443 KING FRANCIS 23 (BF) M Bell 4-10-0 P Dennis
2 (8) 473 WINKLEW 31 (D3) (S) R Fahey 7-9-10 O Lewis (7)
3 (7) 401 OCHIL HOUSE 2 (PT) G Boughy 3-9-8 S Osborne (3)
4 (3) 258 SOCIALLY SHADY 174 (V) (D2) (G) K R Burke 5-9-7 S James

5 (10) 531 GLITTERING CHANCE 23 (P) H Palmer 3-9-7 D Costello

6 (2) 62L ICE HOUSE 57 W Haggas 3-9-6 S Donohoe
7 (1) L3L EYE KNEE 21 (PT) (C&D2) (S) T Easterly 4-9-6 J Garrity

8 (5) 331 LICIT 11 (C&D3) T Easterly 5-9-6 S B Kirrane (3)
9 (4) 6-50 TWO BROTHERS 118 (V) M & D Easterly 4-9-4 Joanna Mason

10 (6) 444 NIETZSCHE 24 (C&D) (S) B Ellison 9-9-4 B Robinson

Probable SP: 3 Ice House, 9-2 Glittering Chance, 5 Licit, 6 King Francis, 8 Nietzsche, 10 Winklev, 12 Ochil House, Eye Knee, 16 Two Brothers, 20 Socially Shady.

TRACK FACTS: L-H course. GOING: Soft. STALLS: 1m4f centre; remainder inside. DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low. Top jockey: Sam James. Top trainer: T Easterly. Headgear first time: 1.48 Jinxster, Spioradalta, Valstar, 2.58 Blazing Son, Le Cheval Rapide, Sydney Bay, 3.33 Strength 'n Honour, 4.08 Balleys Derbyday, 4.40 Dark Eclipse, How Bizarre, One More Dream, Two Summers, 5.15 Bastille, 5.50 Two Brothers. Longest traveller: Hunkpapa (1.48) 255 miles. Drop in Class: 2.58 Wade's Magic is down 4 grades on last run (Class 2 to Class 6); 5.50 Ice House (2). First run since wind surgery: None today.

GIMCRACK

1.48 Valstar
2.23 Pop World
2.58 Blazing Son
3.33 Kodl Dancer
4.08 Qoya
4.40 Josiebond
5.15 Stoney Lane
5.50 Licit

WOLVERHAMPTON SSR

4.50—NURSERY (6) (2-Y-O) £7,500 added (£3,726) 1m 10f 14yds (7)

1 (7) 101 NIBRAS RAINBOW 12 (V) (M) Mohammed 10-3 B Sayette (3)
2 (2) 113 WHOLETHEODOGOUT 22 (V) P Evans 9-8 C Shepherd
3 (6) 821 ROMANTIC SUNLIGHT 46 W Stone 9-5 K O'Neill
4 (3) 515 PINK LILY 22 R Hannan 9-2 S Hitchcott
5 (5) 671 CARIAD 14 (C&D) G Scott 9-0 S Cherci (3)
6 (4) 656 MIRABELLO BAY 18 J S Moore 8-13 L Keniry
7 (1) LL0 THE CREAM RISES 15 (B) J S Moore 8-8 L Morris

Probable SP: 2 Nibras Rainbow, 3 Romantic Sunlight, 4 Canad, Wholethethodgout, 10 Pink Lily.

5.25—NOVICE STAKES (5) (2-Y-O) £6,800 added (£3,672) 1m 14yds (10)

1 (9) 41 ROSE OF ITHACA 22 Sir M Prescott 9-7 L Morris
2 (5) 042 COBALT BLUE 19 R Varian 9-5 R Da Silva
3 (4) 0 ENDANGERED 24 S Kirk 9-5 F Marsh
4 (7) FLYING PANTHER (H) T Ward 9-5 P-L Jamin (3)
5 (2) 43 LION KINGDOM 16 (T) J Fanshawe 9-5 B Sayette (3)

6 (10) 84 PAUSE 16 A Balding 9-5 J Bryan
7 (3) 8 BLIVE HOUR 16 R Hannan 9-0 S Hitchcott
8 (1) IL CAMPEONE M Loughnane 9-0 E J Walsh
9 (8) MAID IN KENTUCKY G Boughy 9-0 C Shepherd
10 (6) 89 NINETYNINEPROBLEMS 24 M Loughnane 9-0 C Howarth (5)

Probable SP: 9-4 Cobalt Blue, 3 Lion Kingdom, 4 Maid In Kentucky, Rose Of Ithaca, 10 Pavise, 20 Flying Panther.

5.55—HANDICAP (5) £9,000 added (£4,536) 6f 20yds (11)

1 (1) 000 EMBOUR 10 (P) (D6) R Carr 7-10-0 C Howarth (5)
2 (4) 913 SARAH'S VERSE 37 (C&D3) R Harris 5-9-12 B Sayette (3)

3 (10) L91 ENDOWED 18 (D4) A Carroll 5-9-11 L Morris
4 (6) 25L LEM EAVE IT 85 (T) Alice Haynes 3-9-9 J Bradnam (7)
5 (2) 12L TWILIGHT SECRET 28 (B) (C&D2BF) G Tuer 4-9-8 P-L Jamin (3)

6 (3) 648 NEWYORKSTATEOFMIND 23 (P) (CD2) W Muir & C Grassick 5-9-7 S Cherci (3)
7 (11) 433 RATTLING 15 (C&D) R Hannan 3-9-5 Alexander Volkhansky (7)

8 (1) 753 ETERNAL GLORY 15 (C&D) C & M Johnston 3-9-3 F Norton

9 (8) 37L APACHE STAR 49 (CD) M Loughnane 3-9-1 E J Walsh
10 (5) 325 Q TWENTY BOY 36 (C&CD) M Usher 7-9-1 Isobel Francis (7)

11 (7) 312 ELDEYAAR 17 (C&D) A Britain 3-8-9 K O'Neill

Probable SP: 9-2 Rattling, 5 Eldeyaa, 6 Sarah's Verse, Endowed, 13-2 Twilight Secret, 8 Twenty Boy.

6.30—SELLING STAKES (6) (2-Y-O) £7,500 added (£3,726) 6f 20yds (8)

1 (1) 205 EXPLICIT 39 (D) C & M Johnston 10-2 F Norton
2 (2) 117 BOJUNK 11 (B) (D) G Boughy 9-5 M Crehan (3)
3 (5) GEALACH IARIANN N Hawke 9-4 T Buckley (5)

4 (7) 255 MAN MADE OF SMOKE 14 (V) P Evans 9-4 C Shepherd
5 (4) 528 CLOUD FLYER 5 (BT) G Boughy 8-13 B Sayette (3)

6 (3) 34 ELONGATE 73 Alice Haynes 8-13 C Howarth (5)
7 (6) 855 MAGNIFICENT MILLIE 15 H Dunlop 8-13 L Morris
8 (8) 67 WADSLADE 19 J Camacho 8-13 S Cherci (3)

Probable SP: 5-2 Elongate, 11-4 Explicit, 6 Magnificent Millie, Man Made Of Smoke, 8 Bojink, 10 Wadslade.

TRACK FACTS: L-H Tapeta course. GOING: Standard. STALLS: 7f outside, remainder inside. DRAW ADVANTAGE: None. Top jockey: Luke Morris. Top trainer: P Evans. Placed in the race last year: 5.55 Twilight Secret (1st), Headgear first time: 4.50 Nibras Rainbow, 5.25 Flying Panther, Lion Kingdom, 8.30 Mumma Mac. Longest traveller: Buraback (8.30) 205 miles. Drop in Class: 5.55 Newyorkstateofmind is down 2 grades on last run (Class 3 to Class 5). First run since wind surgery: 8.30 Mumma Mac.

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NEWMARKET RTV

ROBIN GOODFELLOW

1.31 Climate Friendly
2.06 Washraa
2.41 Bell Shot
3.16 Equiano Springs (nb)
3.51 Rajinsky
4.26 Value Theory
5.01 Maysong

GIMCRACK

1.31 Fortis Regina
2.06 Queenlet
2.41 Bell Shot
3.16 Celsius
3.51 Bascule
4.26 Sea Galaxy
5.01 Masque Of Anarchy

1.31—FILLIES' NOVICE STAKES (4) (2-Y-O) £8,000 added (£3,420) 1m (13)

1 (12) 61 CHELSEA GREEN 28 H Palmer 9-8 H Davies (3)
2 (9) L ARIKARA 45 P Chapple-Hyam 9-2 S W Kelly
3 (7) 74 BEAUTIFUL STAR 11 R Hannan 9-2 D O'Neill

4 (5) CLIMATE FRIENDLY R Varian 9-2 R Dawson
5 (13) DOOM W Haggas 9-2 C Fallon

6 (11) 3 FORTIS REGINA 22 (H) J & T Gosden 9-2 R Havlin
7 (3) GENTLE WHINNY 28 D Coakley 9-2 T P Queally

8 (4) 78 LADY CLEMMIE 22 (H) J Feilden 9-2 D E Hogan
9 (10) 3 NATIVE MELODY 18 G Kellaway 9-2 C Noble

10 (8) SCENIC E Walker 9-2 P Cosgrave
11 (6) 2 THERAPIST 42 A Balding 9-2 H Turner

12 (1) THROUBI J Fanshawe 9-2 D Muscutt
13 (2) TRUST THE STARS R Beckett 9-2 H Crouch

Probable SP: 9-4 Fortis Regina, 9-2 Chelsea Green, 7 Climate Friendly, 10 Beautiful Star, Therapist, 12 Trust The Stars.

TRACK FACTS: R-H course. GOING: Good-good to soft in places. STALLS: Far side course: 2m2f centre; remainder stand side. DRAW ADVANTAGE: None. Top jockey: Robert Havlin. Top trainer: C Appleby. Placed in the race last year: 3.16 Equiano Springs (1st); 3.51 Themaxwecan (3rd); 5.01 Mark Of Respect (2nd); Luna Magic (3rd). Headgear first time: 1.31 Lady Clemmie, 2.06 Eidikos, Queenlet, 2.41 Sabinyino, 4.26 Flora Finch.

ROBIN GOODFELLOW

1.31 Climate Friendly
2.06 Washraa
2.41 Bell Shot
3.16 Equiano Springs (nb)
3.51 Rajinsky
4.26 Value Theory
5.01 Maysong

GIMCRACK

1.31 Fortis Regina
2.06 Queenlet
2.41 Bell Shot
3.16 Celsius
3.51 Bascule
4.26 Sea Galaxy
5.01 Masque Of Anarchy

2.06—FILLIES' HANDICAP (3) £15,000 added (£8,100) 1m (8)

1 (5) L-36 NATASHA 52 (D2) J & T Gosden 3-9-10 R Havlin
2 (1) 360 EIDIKOS 30 (P) E Bethell 3-9-9 H Crouch
3 (2) 183 WASHRAA 70 (DBF) Owen Burrows 3-9-3 H Davies (3)

4 (6) 41-1 AL HUSN 152 (D2) R Varian 3-9-2 D O'Neill
5 (7) 91-1 QUEENLET 143 (T) (D) S W Haggas 3-8-12 C Fallon

6 (8) 114 QUEENARNA 53 (D2) (G) C Hills 3-8-12 J P Spencer
7 (4) 146 AIMING HIGH 71 (H) (G) D M Simcock 8-9-7 H Turner

8 (3) 607 RAINBOW COLOURS 22 (D2) (G) C & M Johnston 3-8-5 J Fegan

Probable SP: 9-4 Al Husn, 7-2 Washraa, 5 Queenlet, 6 Natasha, 7 Aim High, 12 Raining, 14 Eidikos, 16 Rainbow Colours.

2.41—HANDICAP (4) (3-Y-O) £13,000 added (£6,696) 7f (12)

1 (8) L-3L SEATTLE KING 84 (D) (S) P McEntee 9-11 T Heard (3)
2 (4) 131 BELL SHOT 29 (D2) (S) C Hills 9-9 C Fallon

3 (9) 2-12 SENSE OF POWER 24 (DBF) (G) C Appleby 9-9 H Davies (3)
4 (1) 361 BALLEYSQUEEFEE 39 (D2) (S) K P De Foy 9-7 D Muscutt

Mark Wood can play the fool or be crippled by anxiety. He is the jester with a twist...

YOU probably think you know Mark Wood. He is the lad from Ashington made good, the England fast bowler with the imaginary horse, the extrovert whose innate cheek has helped him cope with a career ravaged by injury.

He is all those things, for sure, even if the horse has long since been put out of its virtual misery. But at his core is a likeable contradiction. One moment in *The Wood Life* he is laughing about the time he almost scythed off a toe with a lawnmower. The next, he recounts a severe panic attack on a flight to Amsterdam. He can play the fool, and just as easily be crippled by anxiety.

It almost goes without saying that this is no conventional autobiography. Wood does not do convention: he is teetotal, survives for weeks on tour eating only margherita pizza and wears goggles for chopping onions. He is a jester with a twist.

And while the book — written with the deft assistance of ESPN-cricinfo journalist Vithushan Ehantharajah — is divided into 'How to...' chapters, from 'How to celebrate' to 'How to love', Wood is honest about its value for those in search of profundity. 'Perhaps this is more of a not-so-helpful self-help book,' he writes, with trademark self-deprecation.

Told he comes across on the page as a normal bloke, he sounds chuffed. And yet, in other ways, he is anything but. Wood is one of the fastest bowlers in the game. He is a World Cup winner. And he has Test match five-fors in some of cricket's most far-flung corners: St Lucia, Johannesburg, Hobart.

He is also habitually injured, though after elbow surgery he hopes to play a part in the latter stages of England's T20 series in Pakistan, starting next week, and he is excited about a busy winter: a T20 World Cup in Australia, Test series in Pakistan and New Zealand, white-ball assignments in South Africa and Bangladesh.

Still, the long absences, the many operations, the periods of rehab — these are all indelibly part of his story. Since his debut in 2015, he

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

by Lawrence Booth

Wisden Editor



Sitting pretty: Wood hurtles the ball down for England (below) and relaxing in the Long Room at Lord's (right)

has appeared in only 26 of England's 100 Tests. It is why the good times feel especially sweet. 'If I didn't have them, I probably wouldn't have played as much as I have,' he tells *Sportsmail*. 'England might have looked elsewhere. For myself, mentally, I might have said: "Look, I don't know if I can keep doing this". I wasn't living up to the potential I thought I had.'

The self-belief is certainly there, and he loves the day job: 'When everything's right, bowling fast is an awesome feeling. It feels like you're flying, like a power surge. On a good day, you feel like you and the batter have a telepathy with each other, like "I'm coming for you here".'

Sometimes, he daydreams about his favourite spells, and he is particularly fond of a delivery that produced an involuntary twitch from West Indies' Shimron Hetmyer during a lightning spell in St Lucia in early 2019. 'It was a bouncy wicket and the slips were miles back. The way the edge went ... it seemed to fly.'

At the same time, part of Wood seems endearingly starstruck by the world his career has opened up. He has played with England's two greatest bowlers — Jimmy Anderson and Stuart Broad — and earned praise from opponents.

'I was doing some catches on the boundary at Adelaide over the winter and Brett Lee came over and he was like, "Well done at Brisbane". I texted my mate straight away and said, "Brett Lee



came up to me", as we used to pretend to be Brett in the garden. He texted back and said: "I cannae believe you're actually speaking to these people".'

In the book, he recalls an unplayable ball to dismiss Usman Khawaja at Hobart in January. That night, he got into the hotel lift with Australia's coach Justin Langer, who said: 'Woah, that bouncer was a brute, wasn't it?' These are the stories that keep him going, and England believing. Ben Stokes is a big fan, and was the team-mate who encouraged him to go short in Hobart, where Wood finished with a career-best six for 37. Moments like that have given him a taste for more.

'I'm getting to that age where I don't want to look back and think about the games I've missed,' he says. 'I want to be able to say: "Look, this is how many times I played for England. And I give my all every time I played".'

His commitment is total, but expectation can bring anxiety. Wood reaches for an analogy he picked up from a psychologist. 'If you've got a jug full of water, and you add rocks, the water level will go up, and that was like stress for me. The rocks could be missing your family. It could be injury,

planes, or worrying about food. If you're adding them, the water is going to get higher, to the point where it spills over. That's when the anxiety kicks in.'

He has learned to replace negative thoughts with positive ones, and is conscious his body language needs work. But because of the injury-enforced hiatuses, he says he feels young for his age: he turns 33 in January. A long-standing ankle problem seems to have been resolved, and he is optimistic about the years ahead.

'I'm probably in the best bit of my career,' he says. 'Most people talk about their best period being in their late 20s. I feel like now is my best bit because I'm fresh: I haven't gotten much under my belt, and I was a late developer.'

With three Tests in Pakistan starting in December, Wood hopes his skiddy pace and low trajectory will prove useful on surfaces that can encourage reverse swing. Those qualities help explain why his Test record overseas (47 wickets at 25) is better than at home (35 at 40) — and why he believes he still has work to do to become a permanent member of England's attack.

'If I'm not bowling 90mph, there are 15 or 20 bowlers better than me bowling at 80mph. If I can move the ball, that'll make me more





EXCLUSIVE
PICTURE:
**ANDY
HOOPER**

WHY ENGLAND COULD DO WITH WOOD...

SINCE his Test debut in 2015, Mark Wood averages 25.36 abroad. Only Jimmy Anderson has a better average (25.05) of England bowlers to take at least 10 wickets overseas since then.

England pace bowlers' wickets abroad since Wood's debut:

S Broad — 95 wickets at 27.85
J Anderson — 91 wickets at 25.05
B Stokes — 79 wickets at 30.12
M Wood — 47 wickets at 25.36
C Woakes — 36 wickets at 51.88
S Curran — 21 wickets at 42.33
J Archer — 12 wickets at 41.50
O Robinson — 11 wickets at 25.54
S Finn — 11 wickets at 30.45
C Overton — 11 wickets at 44.09

48 WOOD'S strike rate of 48.2 in Test matches away from home is better than both Jimmy Anderson's (65.8) and Stuart Broad's (67.8).

Wickets against Australia since Wood's Test debut:

Broad	68 wickets
Anderson	35
WOOD	27
Woakes	26
Stokes	23

effective in England. At the minute, I probably don't move it enough or I'm not accurate enough, so that's what I need to improve.'

Then again, like Bobby and Jack Charlton, Wood is a World Cup winner from Ashington — which is more than can be said for the other England quick to emerge from this Northumberland town, Steve Harmison. 'That's the only

thing I'll ever have over Harmy,' says Wood. 'He's got the wickets, the pace, the height, he's the Lord Protector of the North. He's Ashington's No.1. He was the original Ashington Express, I'm the Ashington choo-choo train.'

If he can proceed full steam ahead for the next few years, there may even be material for another book.

The Wood Life: Shearer, Sheeran & hating beer!

IN Mark Wood's new book, the England fast bowler opens up on life inside (and outside) the rope. Here are some exclusive extracts...

BAULKING AT A BEER

MY FINAL beer came when we won the 2019 World Cup. Not by choice, mind. For the whole build-up to the final, Stokesy was on at me. Even on the morning of the game.

'If we win, you have to have a beer!' I kept telling him, 'Ner, man', but he wouldn't listen. He's not an easy man to say no to and this was not something I was going to budge on, so we went around and around. In the end, I was sick of him going on, so I agreed.

Didn't let me forget, did he? That night, we're all in the changing room and Stokesy collars me, hands me a beer and says, 'Right — see that off'. Even the smell. God — how can you? Any of you? It's vile. But given we wouldn't be there celebrating a historic win without him, I suppose I can do it for him.

I nursed it for three hours, so it was 30°C when I finished it. Proud, and a bit sick, I went to Stokesy and said, 'There you go,' handing him the empty bottle. Of course, he had no clue what I was on about — he was a few sheets to the wind at this point. Understandably so.

RUBBING IT IN TO RIVALS

I'D LIKE to say most victories are celebrated gracefully. But there are times when you've beaten a rival and want to rub it in. And that's OK in my book.

Before the 2015 Ashes, there was this video doing the rounds of Shane Watson and Steve Smith speaking in Australia. 'We've got all departments covered,' they said. 'I don't even think they'll come close to us, to be honest.'

Well, we did stand a chance, as it turned out, winning the urn back in the fourth Test at Trent Bridge. I ended up castling Nathan Lyon for the final wicket — quite a moment to cap my first summer as an England player.

There was a speaker system in the dressing room, which we could all plug our phones into. Throughout the afternoon (and night), someone would cue up that video of Watson and Smith saying what they said, then someone else would follow it with the clip of Zach Gallianakis doing a wheezing laugh from his film *Dinner for Schmucks*. We must have played that 150 times that night. I can still hear it now: 'I don't even think they'll come close to us.' Beautiful.

WANNABE FOOTBALLERS

WHEN the batter drops the ball around the wicket and goes for a quick run, the best way to get the ball on to the stumps for a run-out when you're a bowler in your follow-through is to kick it. Given most cricketers fancy themselves as footballers, it's a common sight.

I can't tell you why, or when it started, but whenever I'm in that position, I yell out the name of a famous Newcastle United footballer. Sometimes it's 'Shearer!', 'Asprilla!' or 'Ketsbaia!' (the Georgian striker who is best known for kicking seven shades out of an advertising hoarding after he scored a last-minute winner against Bolton in 1998). If I get one on my left foot it's 'Ginola!'

I should say, I am not a Newcastle fan — I support AFC Wimbledon because blue is my favourite colour and when I got a Premier League sticker book when I was younger, I realized my dad looked like their keeper Hans Segers.



Cup of joy: Mark Wood holds the World Cup in 2019

GETTY IMAGES

THE WASHING MACHINE

A LOT of us remember where we were during that miraculous 2019 World Cup final chase. Around 30,000 people were at the ground, chewing their fingernails. Millions more were doing the same at home. Many of you would have been crowded around a TV or radio at your cricket club or found an Irish pub on holiday. But for an hour of England's first 50-over World Cup final in 25 years, as Ben Stokes and Jos Buttler were rebuilding with a 110-run partnership for what would be the most dramatic win in English cricket history, I was sat on a washing machine.

'Are you... going to move?' asks the dressing-room attendant who was just trying to do his job and wash the towels to ensure we had a fresh supply.

'I can't, mate.'

'But... I've got to chuck these in and get them dry by the end of the day,' he says, carrying a big basket of laundry.

'You don't understand, mate. I've got to stay here. We're winning.'

'Can I at least switch it on while you're sat on it?'

'Go for it. Honestly, mate — if I move now and one of these two get out, it'll be all on me.'

On it goes, whirring and jumping while I'm on top, trying to pull myself together.

So here are two of the best white-ball batters in the world out there turning around a final, and I'm bobbing up and down on a machine that this lad has set to 'fast spin wash'. The attendant ended up staying, as did another, and their chat helped calm my nerves as the runs were picking up. But I couldn't offer anything — the vibrations meant I was talking l-i-k-e t-h-i-s t-h-e w-h-o-l-e t-i-m-e. 'S-H-O-T S-T-O-K-E-S-Y!' 'C-O-M-E O-N J-O-O-O-O-O-SI!'

RUSH OF BOWLING FAST

BOWLING fast changes everything around you. Batters have less time to react and are more prone to playing at balls they shouldn't. You've also got that fear factor. You can hurt people, which isn't a great thing to be proud of, but it comes into the equation with short-pitch bowling, where you can target the body for dismissals. That upsets rhythm and knocks them out of their comfort zone.

In the last Ashes Test of the 2021-22 series, I got Usman Khawaja out with a bouncer that almost took his head off. That night, I got back to the hotel and shared a lift with Justin Langer, the Australia coach. He smiled at me and said, 'Woah, that bouncer was a brute.'

When you're in the zone, there's nothing like it. You can't feel the grass beneath your feet. Your legs feel light. You don't even feel like you're sprinting. All you can feel is that build-up, build-up... and then WHOOSH! That release.

ED SHEERAN HAS MY BAT

WE WERE in New Zealand and Danny Reuben, the media manager, comes into the changing room in a panic. 'Ed Sheeran wants a bat!'

He was in New Zealand on tour and he wanted a bit of memorabilia as he's a cricket fan. Anyway, Danny has come up to us and asked us for one because he knows a batter won't give one up easily, even to a world-famous musician. So I said: 'Fine, he can have this bat. But I want a guitar in return. Swapsies.' Danny was: 'No problem.' Did I get it? No! I've given up this bat which hit Mitchell Johnson for six and got nothing in return. That bat should have been mounted on a wall. And instead it's probably being used to knock around apples and oranges on Sheeran's tour bus. I'll never forgive Danny for that.

ILLUSTRIOUS OPPONENTS

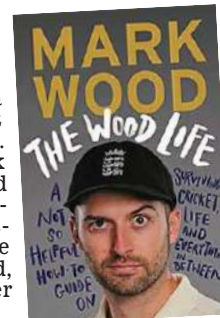
SOMEONE like Virat Kohli makes you feel like you're in a fight. He's in your face, even when he's not saying anything. He's got a confrontational style. Each boundary feels like a punch to your gut and the onus is on you to shake it off.

At the other end of the spectrum is New Zealand's Kane Williamson. He's one of the nicest blokes you'll ever meet but he is infuriating in every other way. It feels like he's batting with a barn door. He seems to hit every ball out of the middle. But worst of all, he makes you think you're bowling much slower because it's so easy for him.

Steve Smith's like that. I've got him out a few times but you can always count on him to hurt us. He's so awkward to bowl at, because pace never seems to affect him. You need to get everything right. You spend weeks preparing for this one delivery to get him out. It's pretty draining.

One batter who gives me nightmares is Rohit Sharma. His bat is wider, thicker and springier than everyone else's. He's got all the classical shots and can hit sixes with ease. It's annoying that he's so good to watch. I'll be going through the highlights and thinking, 'Ah, what a shot' and then realise it's against me.

Extracted from *The Wood Life* by Mark Wood, published by Allen & Unwin at £20. © Mark Wood 2022. To order a copy for £18 (offer valid to 01/10/22; UK P&P free on orders over £20), visit www.mailshop.co.uk/ books or call 020 3176 2937.



It was all my fault

Failed drugs test meant T20 ace ALEX HALES was shunned by England for three years... now he's out to make up for lost time



by **RICHARD GIBSON**
in Karachi

ALLEX HALES resumed his England career this week accepting no one is to blame but himself for the three-and-a-half year chunk that has been taken out of it.

Hales, 33, was axed at the start of the 2019 summer after neglecting to disclose he had failed two recreational drugs tests, a decision that led to then captain Eoin Morgan claiming he had 'shown a complete disregard' for team values.

But Hales's exile ended earlier this month when he was chosen as replacement for the injured Jonny Bairstow for the seven-match Twenty20 series here against Pakistan and the World Cup in Australia next month.

Reflecting ahead of his first training session back in the England set-up and a return to international action at the National Stadium in Karachi on Tuesday, Hales said: 'At the end of the day, it was my fault, wasn't it? I was the one who did what I did. I have to hold my hands up. You have to look yourself in the mirror and try to improve as a person and learn from mistakes.'

Hales missed the 2019 World Cup but does not consider watching his team-mates edging out New Zealand in the thrilling Lord's final that July as the lowest point of his absence.

'It was extremely painful, for sure. As a cricketer it's your worst nightmare to be involved in a World Cup squad, missing out on the eve of it and then watching your team,' Hales said. 'Obviously, it was brilliant to see the team lifting it but at the same time it eats at you inside that you should have been part of it.'

'The worst feeling was probably on the day (I was axed). I still remember the drive back home that morning from the camp we were in, in Wales. It was the longest drive of my life, thinking all



Changed man: Hales says he's learned his lesson

GETTY IMAGES

sorts. You think your career has ended, that's going to be it, and that was a really tough day. From then, the only way was up.'

Ashley Giles, the managing director who revealed Hales's fate, is long gone but it was not until the departure of another key figure, Morgan, from the England hierarchy this summer that Hales summoned the courage to challenge his long-term omission. Buoyed by his strong form — no one in the world can

match his 1,271 Twenty20 runs in 2022 — he did so via a phone call to Giles's successor Rob Key.

'I had nothing to lose, did I? I wasn't in the squad, and I wanted to know where I stood. I wanted to know if there was a genuine chance of me playing or whether they were just saying it to the media,' Hales (right) revealed.

'Australia is a place I feel I can offer a lot both on the field and off the field and I felt like I deserved my spot in that squad if it was



WHY HALES IS BACK IN THE FOLD

HALES has always been a strong white-ball player and has excelled both domestically and internationally in T20s.

OVERALL T20I RECORD:

Matches:	60
Runs:	1,644
Highest score:	116*
Average:	31.01
Strike rate:	136.66
Hundreds/fifties:	1/8
4s/6s:	175/55

10,000 HALES is the only English player with over 10,000 runs in the format. He is the eighth-highest run scorer of all time in T20 cricket, with 10,104 runs.

■ **SINCE his last game for England, only Pakistan's Babar Azam (4674) has more runs than Hales (4587) in all T20 cricket.**

picked purely on cricketing merit. So I felt like I had the right to ask why I wasn't picked. To show that drive, to show the guys that I still wanted to be part of it.

'It looks like it's paid off and I'm really looking forward to what the next couple of months have to offer.'

Hales missed out on the original squads but received a welcome return call from Key last week, cutting short a planned month-long visit to his South African-based girlfriend Nina.

It came after captain Jos Buttler had canvassed the views of senior players, some of whom had been against his return in the past. Recently, when Ben Stokes was asked about his relationship with Hales, he would not go beyond saying they shared a desire to win trophies with England.

Hales, meanwhile, remains forward-facing, concluding: 'I'm treating this as a blank canvas and only looking to the future now.'

ECB 'wasted' £60k on mock DCMS hearing

THE ECB spent £60,000 on practice 'interrogation' sessions to prepare for their car-crash parliamentary select committee hearing on Azeem Rafiq's racism allegations, *Sportsmail* can reveal. The splurge came just seven weeks after announcing 62 redundancies last winter to 'safeguard cricket's long-term future' in light of Covid — and more ECB job cuts have been earmarked before Christmas. Rafiq opened up about being called a 'P**i' and racially abused over eight years at Yorkshire at a Digital, Culture, Media and Sport hearing last

EXCLUSIVE By ISAAN KHAN

November. The ECB board's payment to a law firm is said to have been for conducting a mock hearing, in which then-chief executive Tom Harrison and colleagues practised facing questions expected to mirror those of DCMS chief Julian Knight MP. It did not go to plan. Harrison had intended to make a pre-rehearsed speech at the hearing, in the hope of avoiding questioning — a tactic thought to have been planned in the

sessions — but Knight blocked him from doing so. Knight told *Sportsmail*: 'It's incredible such money should be spent in such preparation. Frankly, it didn't do them much good — they should ask for a refund.' *Sportsmail* understands the ECB have also spent more than £1million on racism-related probes in the past 12 months. That sum could exceed £1.5m by the end of the year with 'no end in sight' in some cases. It is believed at least £500,000 has been spent on a law team and the Cricket Discipline Commission in relation to the Rafiq investigation. The probe

has proven costly, with many of the seven charged ex-Yorkshire employees hiring high-profile legal teams to battle the accusations, which has dragged the matter out even further. The investigation is expected to run well into the new year. Cindy Butts' Independent Commission for Equity in Cricket report, which is due this year, has also been expensive, with the five employed commissioners collectively being paid around £10,000 a day. An ECB spokesperson said: 'Where issues need investigating, we make no apology for doing so



Practice sessions: Tom Harrison thoroughly and this does cost money. 'It is also right to invest in the Independent Commission for Equity in Cricket so we can identify the action we need to remove barriers to people getting involved in our sport.'

I dodged a few parties over the summer... but I feel better for it

Wasps forward Alfie Barbeary has finally binned the party-boy lifestyle to focus on his rugby

THE lads call me Eric — as in Cantona,' says Alfie Barbeary. Why? 'They say I get special treatment,' he adds, grinning. In fact, at Wasps, they call him a lot of things. He has already admitted that one of his many nicknames is Piglet and, sure enough, when the No 8 is having his picture taken, clad in sandals, there is a yell from the nearby doorway of the club training centre: 'Put those trotters away!'

Perhaps there is special treatment at Wasps, in order to keep a special talent grounded. If so, it's working. There is confidence in Barbeary, but none of that Cantona arrogance. There has been great fanfare for him within English rugby for the last couple of years. But having endured the loss of early-career momentum, he is recognising the need for the right attitude to go with ability.

Something had to give, so Barbeary chose not to participate in an end-of-season squad social in Budapest or a summer trip to Hvar. The penny has dropped — prior to his looming 22nd birthday — about the need to wring every drop out of his potential, as a multi-purpose forward who has made No8 his home but remains a wannabe centre at heart.

'It's the first pre-season I've survived in one piece and one of the first times I've played the first

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

by Chris Foy

Rugby Correspondent



game,' he tells *Sportsmail*, after starting against Gloucester at Kingsholm last Sunday. 'That was a nice feeling — just a shame we didn't get the result.'

'I came back in better shape than normal. I've always been a bit immature in terms of the off-season. As an 18, 19-year-old, your mates are on gap years, so I would get lost with them. This year, I tried to think of myself as a bit more of a rugby player. When I'm lighter, I'm less of an injury risk.'

Asked what had been sacrificed, Barbeary adds: 'There were a few lads' holidays and parties. But I don't regret it as much as I did at the time. It's about being sensible. I'm happy the season has begun and I'm in one piece. Last year, I suffered a hamstring tear. I was always trying to rush back.'

Barbeary admits that after making waves when he first broke into the Wasps team, as a try-scoring, hard-carrying sensation, he struggled to keep making the



Setting the bar high: Barbeary is intent on raising his standards

PICTURE: KEVIN QUIGLEY

same impact. Once his secret was out, the opposition targeted him.

'I did start to feel man-marked,' he admits. 'That's probably why I went a bit quiet. I didn't really see the ball as much. I became a professional dummy line!'

'Now I've matured, you realise you have to work out a way round it. If other teams are going to bite in on me then they'll be giving chances wide, so I've got to follow the ball, look for offloads and use that as my way into the game.'

The pressure has built on more than one front. Barbeary has also had the burden of becoming a focal point for Wasps fans after his emergence as a homegrown talisman caught the imagination.

'There's expectation, but you don't feel it until you have a few quiet games,' he says. 'Then you put more pressure on yourself and overdo it. Last season, I had a spell where I was chasing games, when I was going in and out of (England) camp. I put the expectation on myself to play better, but then I had a couple of the worst games I've ever played.'

'I can't say I don't like expectation. As much as you get hype, you also get people who doubt you and it's always a nice feeling when you can prove them wrong.'

Last season, English rugby was gripped by another brilliant new talent — London Irish flier Henry Arundell who went straight into the England team. There were echoes of Barbeary's breakthrough, but he admits that

Arundell handled the rise better.

'He's a top player and a good bloke,' says Barbeary. 'When I broke through, I didn't have the robustness to back it up. He has shown his talent and backed it up. I hadn't decided what position I wanted to play, so it was a bit awkward.'

That uncertainty has now been banished. Having moved from hooker to back-row, Barbeary set his heart on No8 for Wasps and, hopefully in time, for England. Despite Billy Vunipola's return and Zach Mercer's decision to join Gloucester next summer to push for World Cup selection, Barbeary is 'dead set' on staying there.

Wasps hope he is also dead set on staying with them, as contract talks continue. Barbeary insists he's happy, and jokes a move across the Channel — a la Mercer — may not work fitness-wise. 'I'd come back too big!' he says.

On the field, Barbeary has set his sights on helping his club make up for losing a 21-0 lead at Gloucester by seeing off Bristol in Coventry today. Off the field, he is working on his golf, after an agreement with new housemate and Wasps recruit Will Haydon-Wood that they would learn the game.

'I'm loving it but I'm losing way too many balls,' says Barbeary. 'It's costing a fortune!'

One way or another, Wasps are keeping special 'Eric' humble — despite the Cantona comparison.

Butler was the voice of rugby... and a fine player

SIR CLIVE WOODWARD
WORLD CUP WINNING COACH



SOON AFTER I became England head coach in 1997, I received a surprise call from Eddie Butler — who had moved into the media after a successful career on the field. I was shocked to take the call and what happened next amazed me even more.

There was a big game on that weekend but Eddie asked if he could come to my house to watch it. He said he wanted to get an insight into my thinking as a coach. Round he came, and we ended up spending the whole day together. We even went out for dinner!

Eddie wrote an excellent piece on the back of that day. His idea to visit my house was different, but he was so charming that it was hard to say no!

Eddie was a very good and balanced reporter. He then transferred into broadcasting where he excelled yet further. Eddie's voice went on to be synonymous with the Six Nations. That coverage won't be the same without him.

Rugby is complicated and one of Eddie's greatest skills was in allowing the viewer to understand it. He could make a boring match sound brilliant.

I was shocked when I heard of Eddie's passing. I want to send my condolences to his family. He will always be remembered as the voice of rugby, but he was also a fine player. We toured New Zealand together with the British & Irish Lions in 1983 and also faced each other when England met Wales. He was a top-class forward at No8.

It is so tragic Eddie passed away while on a trip to Peru but the reason he was there — to raise money for charity — sums him up as a person. It is remarkable that one of the last things he did journalistically was record a voiceover to go with the BBC's coverage of the Queen's death. That shows how versatile and talented he was. Rugby will be all the poorer for his loss.

Fury at Warriors owners

WORCESTER staff pleaded for a change of ownership yesterday after helping the club avoid suspension from all competitions. Tomorrow, Steve Diamond's Worcester team will face Exeter in the Gallagher Premiership after the fixture was approved with the crowd limit set at 4,999. Staff are still awaiting wages from last month and a statement released on their behalf yesterday called for the departure of co-owners Colin Goldring and Jason Whittingham.

By CHRIS FOY

'We have chosen to do whatever we can to make sure games go ahead. We cannot promise this goodwill will continue indefinitely,' it read. 'We remain angry at the broken promises and lack of communication from those above and hope for new ownership to come in.' Multiple sources last night said Goldring has been threatening employees with dismissal in response to their statement.

Schumacher axed

MICK SCHUMACHER is facing the sack from American team Haas, meaning the famous family name is unlikely to be on the Formula One grid next season. *Sportsmail* understands Haas boss Gunther Steiner has decided Schumacher, the 23-year-old son of seven-time world champion Michael, is surplus to requirements. The German's contract expires in December and talks over an extension have gone nowhere. Haas have instead installed Nico Hulkenberg, Schumacher's 35-year-old

FORMULA ONE

By JONATHAN McEVROY

compatriot, as their No1 target after he impressed as a Covid super-sub, scoring in two of his four appearances for Racing Point/Aston Martin when he filled in. Schumacher has scored just twice — in Britain and Austria this year — since making his Formula One debut in 2021. Although a fluid market offers Schumacher hope, one paddock source said it would take 'a miracle or two' for him to feature on the F1 grid next season.

McIlroy leads in Rome

THE test run of next year's Ryder Cup course would suggest the Marco Simone Country Club sits favourably with some of Europe's leading stars, with Rory McIlroy leading the Italian Open from Matt Fitzpatrick after two rounds. Both will be key figures in Luke Donald's team for the match against the US next October, as might Tyrrell Hatton, who sits sixth on five under, four off McIlroy. Among the key motivations of their visit to Rome has been reconnaissance of a

GOLF

By RIATH AL-SAMARRAI

course that pumps out plenty of birdies, particularly on its back nine, but has sufficient water and thick rough to provide some balance. In near darkness, McIlroy completed a second-round loop of 66 to reach nine under following his opening 67. Fitzpatrick shot a turbulent 69 in his second round to sit eight under, one adrift of McIlroy.

EXCLUSIVE
INTERVIEWby Craig
Hope

THERE have been two occasions when Lothar Matthaus could have cashed in rather handsomely on his friendship with Diego Maradona.

The first, in 1986, involved a bag bursting with Deutsche marks beneath a table in a Munich restaurant. The second, just a few weeks ago, concerned the jersey worn by the late Argentina legend in the Mexico '86 World Cup final, in which Matthaus and West Germany were beaten 3-2.

Steve Hodge, the England midfielder who had Maradona's shirt from the 'Hand of God' quarter-final, sold that fabled top in May for a world-record £7.1million. He called it, say friends, his 'pension fund'.

So was Matthaus, at 61, not tempted to trade in the framed shirt which had hung in the Bavarian home from which he now talks to *Sportsmail* — exchanged with Maradona at half-time in the Azteca Stadium — for a sum almost certain to safeguard the financial future of his four children, and perhaps even theirs?

'No,' he says, unflinching, having last month returned the jersey to the Argentine ambassador in Madrid. 'In 36 years, I was never thinking, "I want money for this

'Nobody else can do what he made possible with a ball'

shirt". It was a pleasure for me to give it back to the people of Argentina.'

In Maradona's autobiography, he said that Matthaus was his greatest opponent. That, it seems, was payment enough.

'I will never, and have never, had a greater compliment. Diego was the greatest of my time. No person on earth had done what he made possible with a football. We played in each other's farewell games, but only once in the same team, Michel Platini's farewell match in Seville in 1988. He gave me the pass for my goal. Afterwards, we had an unforgettable night on the beers.'

'Diego is a god in Argentina, that is why it was special to give them the jersey.'

Matthaus, it should be noted, is a Ballon d'Or and World Cup winner who is now a prominent TV pundit in Germany. His need for funds is perhaps not as great as that of Hodge, who last worked in football as a youth coach at Notts County several years ago.

Nonetheless, Hodge's windfall would have told Matthaus what he was giving up. He had resisted such lure before. Ebullient and animated company, the former midfielder tells a story of when, as a 25-year-old playing for Bayern Munich, his connection with Maradona, then of Napoli, brought about a surprise visit from four Italian gentlemen.

He stops short of calling them mafioso. 'It was after the World

I'd never sell my Maradona shirt...not even for £7million!

LOTHAR MATTHAUS on his pal Diego, rejecting a bag of cash to join Napoli and why England have lost the 'next Messi' to Germany



Crunch time:
Matthaus (left) fouls
Maradona in
the 1986 final
GETTY IMAGES

Cup in 1986, and Diego sent a group of men from Naples. He said to them, "Hey, you have to bring me Matthaus in my team". It was a Saturday and I had a Bundesliga game in Cologne. I flew to Munich and arrived at the Italian restaurant at 10pm, where my management team had been eating and drinking all night with these guys.

'It was explained to me what they wanted. I had the chance to sign a three-year contract with Naples. Diego wanted me.

and that was sitting next to me on the floor, in a black bag. If I come, I get it. If I don't come, I also get it, but then I can't sign for another Italian club.

'Sure, you start to think, it was a lot of money, four times my salary from Bayern. But I said, "No, nobody can buy me". It was not my way, it felt... tricky. They flew home, with their money, but not with my signature.'

Matthaus eventually signed for Inter Milan and led them to the Serie A title in his first season in 1989, beating Napoli and Maradona

into second. The holdall of Deutsche marks was intended to prevent such a scenario. Their relationship, however, was unaffected.

It was a respect born in that Mexico City final, where Matthaus was detailed by coach Franz Beckenbauer to shadow Maradona. Trailing 2-0 after an hour, he reverted to an attacking role and West Germany were level come the 80th minute, only for Maradona, subdued until free of his minder, to lay on the winning goal for Jorge Burruchaga.

Does Matthaus, given his own talent, resent the role given to him by Beckenbauer?

'It was necessary in this moment, for sure. Diego was dominating games, he made everything special. Had we got to extra time, I believe we would have won. But listen, the best team and best player won the World Cup.'

Four years later, at Italia '90, the same could be said of Matthaus and West Germany. By then, it was a diminished version of Maradona — 'not so happy, not so fit' says Matthaus — yet still he dragged his country to the final in Rome. There, goalless on 85 minutes, the Germans won a penalty.

But this has always mystified me — why did Matthaus, the captain, tournament's best player and scorer of a spot-kick in the

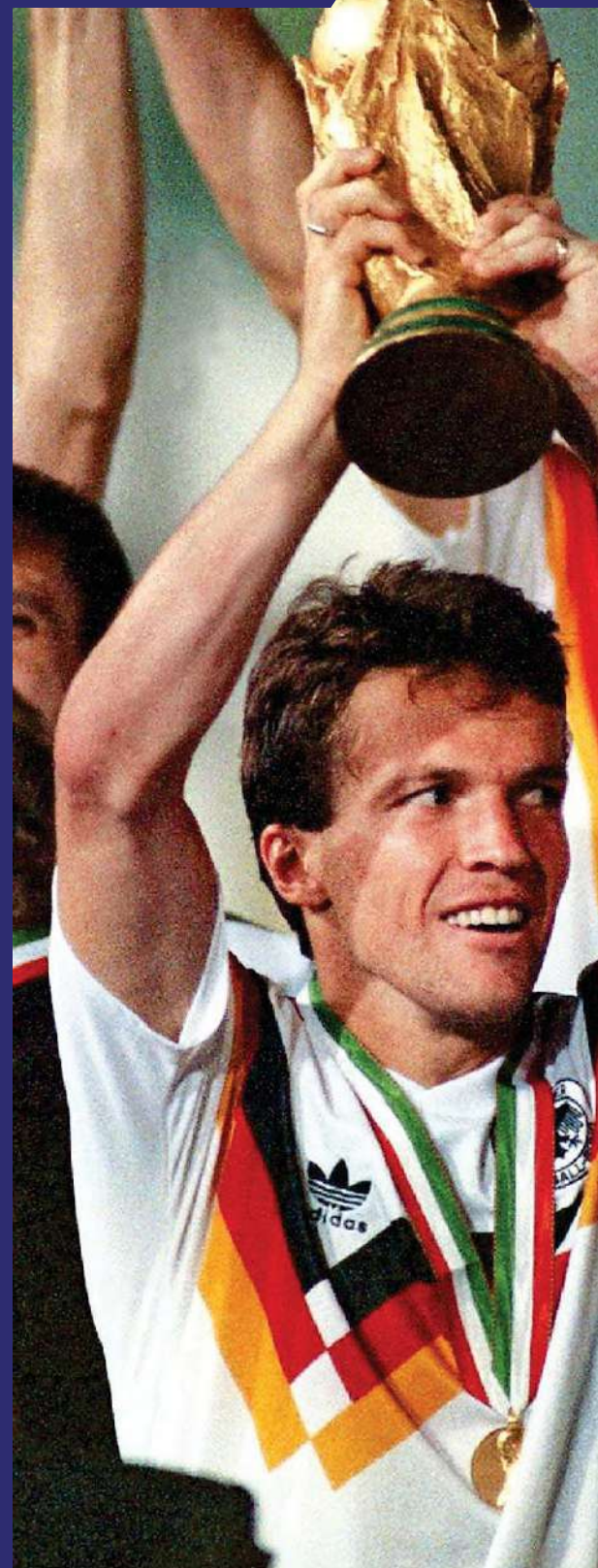
quarter-final win against Czechoslovakia, as well as the semi-final shootout victory over England, allow Andreas Brehme to take it?

'I broke the sole of my shoes and changed them at half-time. I felt uncomfortable. I did not feel safe. Myself and Andy were No1 and No2 on penalties. I said to him, "Andy, I don't feel good. Go, you take it". It was a short discussion. We shared a room at Inter and the national team. I was with him more than my wife! I trusted him. And, he scored.'

But it was Matthaus's World Cup. Even schoolchildren in this country were calling his name in an attempt to recreate his goal from West Germany's 4-1 win over Yugoslavia, a run past two opponents from his own half before finishing from 30 yards. I know, I was one of those children. Matthaus still can't resist poking fun.

'I had a good teacher, Diego Maradona, 1986 against England!' he beams, referencing his friend's solo effort in that quarter-final.

Matthaus swivels in his chair, reliving the moment he received the ball for his goal against the Yugoslavs. 'Immediately, I ran forward, there was a lot of space. The first player came, and then the second. I had the chance to play Jurgen (Klinsmann) clear on goal. But I thought, "Hey, why not





Kings of the world: Matthaus in 1990 and Maradona in 1986

EPA/GETTY IMAGES

alone? Just do it!" It was the perfect shot.

'That win (in our opening game) gave us so much confidence, spirit and peace to dominate the World Cup. We believed we could make something special.'

Matthaus concedes their most difficult opponents were Bobby Robson's England.

'The best game of the World Cup, for technique, speed, personality of the players. It really was 50-50. It could have been different, Chris Waddle hit the post (at 1-1 in extra-time). Our quality came through... in the penalty shootout.'

He delivers the last sentence with a smile. He enjoys baiting his English inquisitor, albeit with good humour. I respond by telling him this is the first time we have spoken properly because, in 2009 and after a West Germany Select XI were beaten 3-2 by England in the Sir Bobby Robson Trophy match at St James' Park — Alan Shearer scored a controversial late penalty — he was in a huff and refused to be interviewed.

'You cannot be happy when you lose,' he says.

As we journey through the England-Germany rivalry — Matthaus will be at Wembley when they face each other this month — he breaks off to cheekily enquire: 'In which country was the European Champi-

onship held in 1996? And there was a game against England, yes?'

He is, though, deadly serious when discussing Jamal Musiala, the 19-year-old Bayern Munich midfielder who already has 15 caps for Germany. He also played for England Under 21s, having lived in London between the ages of seven and 16.

'I like to provoke you again,' begins Matthaus. 'You gave the best player from the young English generation to Germany — Musiala. I

'We're so happy with Musiala, his shirt is on my son's wall'

have a son who is eight years old. I have to buy the Bayern Munich shirts with No 42 on the back and the Germany shirt with No 14. My son is crazy about Musiala.

'So, thank you England for giving him to us! I do not know why you did not fight more to keep this player in the English shirt. We are so happy to have him. When he is on the field, this is like Messi three

years ago. He has everything. Fast, good dribbling, the last pass, he can score. He gets the ball and always goes forward — like me, against Yugoslavia. He is also learning to work better for the defence. He is becoming the complete player. In the future, he will be one of the very best players in the world.'

Maradona's shirt may have gone, but it has been replaced. 'When it was my son's birthday, he got a shirt from Musiala. "Dear my brother Milan, happy birthday!" I hung it in his bedroom. Musiala is always present in my apartment.'

So, what of the World Cup in Qatar? 'Germany can win, for sure,' says Matthaus, an ambassador for the tournament.

'The relationship between the players and coach (Hansi Flick) is strong. In Russia (2018) the players did not respect each other like they do now.

'But one favour for the English is that they have only three months to play before the World Cup. They can't be tired! So, I wish your country a final against Germany, and after, we will win on penalties.'

● *With just two months to go, fans travelling to Qatar are reminded to apply for their Hayya card now, which is needed to enter the country and stadiums and to use free public transport.*

MATT HUGHES

AHEAD OF THE GAME



PREMIER LEAGUE SET TO PAY IF CUP REPLAYS ARE SCRAPPED

THE FA and EFL will demand compensation from the Premier League before they agree to scrap FA Cup third and fourth-round replays in a bid to ease the fixture congestion caused by the mass cancellations that have followed the death of the Queen.

Replays in early rounds of the competition have been abandoned in each of the past two seasons due to the interruption triggered by Covid-19 and the FA and lower division clubs are concerned about losing crucial ticket and television revenue, with overseas

broadcasters certain to demand rebates.

FA Cup replays can be a crucial source of income for EFL clubs, as they receive a facility fee if the match is shown live on television as well as half of the gate receipts, making it a huge money spinner if they are drawn away to a Premier League club.

There have been no formal talks as yet about scrapping Cup replays and the dates remain in the calendar, but the FA are likely to come under considerable pressure from top-flight clubs to drop them.

SKY TURN CELTIC SOUND DOWN

SKY SPORTS' production staff have been instructed to turn down sound levels or even switch off individual microphones during their live coverage of Celtic's Scottish Premiership trip to St Mirren tomorrow if away fans sing offensive chants about the Queen.

BT Sport were forced to apologise after their camera crews honed in on an offensive banner during Celtic's Champions League clash with Shakhtar Donetsk on Wednesday and Sky staff have been primed to avoid a repeat. All broadcasters are bound by Ofcom regulations which state they should avoid televising any material that could cause offence to viewers, and the regulator is understood to have provided further guidance this week that insulting material about the Queen falls into that category. St Mirren confirmed yesterday that they will hold a minute's applause before the Celtic game tomorrow rather than the customary silence that has been observed at almost every other ground in the UK amid fears of mass booing from the visiting fans.

PICTURE PERFECT FOR POTTER

NEW Chelsea manager Graham Potter was amused to see a photograph of the goalkeeping coach he has brought with him from Brighton, Ben Roberts, on the walls of the Blues' training ground on his first visit to the club last week. Roberts is featured in an action shot taken from his playing days as a goalkeeper at Middlesbrough, although the 47-year-old may not appreciate the image as he is pictured being beaten by

a shot from Roberto Di Matteo just 43 seconds into the 1997 FA Cup final. Potter will do well to match Di Matteo's legendary status among Chelsea fans, which was further enhanced when he guided the club to the first Champions League title in their history, against Bayern Munich in 2012. Potter will also hope to last longer than the five months the Italian managed to survive after being given the job on a permanent basis.

POSTPONED PALACE PERPLEXED

CRYSTAL PALACE have been left baffled by the fact that today's game at Brighton will not take place even though the rail strike which led to the original postponement was cancelled following the death of the Queen.

The club had initially assumed that the fixture would go ahead after the National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers (RMT) called off industrial action planned for this weekend, but were subsequently told that Sussex Police lack the resources to maintain order at the Amex Stadium.

Palace have an uncomfortable history with Sussex Police, who in 2017 were forced into an embarrassing climb-down when they apologised for making false claims about the club's fans attempting to force entry into Brighton's ground armed with 'knives and knuckledusters'.

The request for the original postponement was made by Brighton, whose case was accepted by the Premier League Board despite the fact that the rail strike was due to take place the day before the game. Brighton had argued that fans would struggle to travel to the match due to the limited rail service on offer caused by trains being in the wrong location after the strike.

WHAT'S ON AND
WHERE TO WATCH...

(3pm unless stated)

PREMIER LEAGUE

- 1 Brighton v Crystal Palace .. OFF
2 Newcastle v Bournemouth.....
3 Tottenham v Leicester ... (5.30)
Live on Sky Sports Main Event
- Wolves v Man City (12.30).....
Live on BT Sport 1

SKY BET CHAMPIONSHIP

- 4 Birmingham v Coventry.....
5 Burnley v Bristol City.....
6 Huddersfield v Cardiff.....
7 Luton v Blackburn.....
8 Middlesbrough v Rotherham (7.45)
Live on Sky Sports Football
9 Millwall v Blackpool.....
10 Norwich v West Brom.....
11 Preston v Sheff Utd.....
12 QPR v Stoke.....
- Swansea v Hull..... (12.30)
Live on Sky Sports Football
13 Watford v Sunderland.....
14 Wigan v Reading.....

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Sheff Utd.....	9	6	2	1	17	5	12	20
Norwich.....	9	6	1	2	15	8	7	19
Blackburn.....	9	5	0	4	11	11	0	15
Reading.....	9	5	0	4	9	14	-5	15
Burnley.....	9	3	5	1	15	9	6	14
Sunderland.....	9	4	2	3	14	9	5	14
Bristol City.....	9	4	2	3	18	14	4	14
QPR.....	9	4	2	3	14	11	3	14
Rotherham.....	8	3	4	1	12	6	6	13
Watford.....	9	3	4	2	9	9	0	13
Wigan.....	8	3	4	1	9	10	-1	13
Preston.....	9	2	6	1	3	2	1	12
Stoke.....	9	3	2	4	11	11	0	11
Birmingham.....	9	3	2	4	8	10	-2	11
Cardiff.....	9	3	2	4	7	10	-3	11
Blackpool.....	9	3	2	4	9	13	-4	11
Hull.....	9	3	2	4	11	18	-7	11
Luton.....	9	2	4	3	9	10	-1	10
Millwall.....	9	3	1	5	9	13	-4	10
West Brom.....	9	1	6	2	14	13	1	9
Middlesbrough.....	9	2	3	4	13	15	-2	9
Swansea.....	9	2	3	4	7	12	-5	9
Huddersfield.....	8	1	1	6	8	13	-5	4
Coventry.....	6	0	2	4	7	13	-6	2

SKY BET LEAGUE ONE

- 15 Accrington v Cheltenham.....
16 Bolton v Peterborough.....
17 Bristol Rovers v Lincoln City.....
18 Cambridge Utd v Barnsley.....
19 Derby v Wycombe.....
20 Exeter v Burton.....
21 Fleetwood Tn v Charlton.....
22 Forest Green v Morecambe.....
23 Oxford Utd v MK Dons.....
24 Portsmouth v Plymouth.....
25 Port Vale v Shrewsbury.....
26 Sheff Wed v Ipswich.....

SKY BET LEAGUE TWO

- 27 Bradford City v Stevenage.....
28 Carlisle v AFC Wimbledon.....
29 Colchester v Grimsby.....
30 Crewe v Crawley Tn.....
31 Doncaster v Swindon.....
32 Gillingham v Mansfield.....
33 Leyton Orient v Walsall.....
34 Newport Co v Barrow.....
35 Northampton v Rochdale.....
36 Salford City v Tranmere.....
37 Stockport v Harrogate Tn.....
38 Sutton v Hartlepool.....

CINCH SCOTTISH PREMIERSHIP

- 39 Hibernian v Aberdeen.....
40 Livingston v Kilmarnock.....
41 Rangers v Dundee Utd.....
42 St Johnstone v Ross County.....
CINCH SCOTTISH CHAMPIONSHIP
43 Dundee v Inverness CT.....
44 Hamilton v Queen's Park.....
45 Morton v Arbroath.....
46 Partick v Cove Rangers.....
47 Raith v Ayr.....

CINCH SCOTTISH LEAGUE ONE

- 48 Airdrieonians v Clyde.....
49 Alloa v Montrose.....
- Dunfermline v Falkirk.....
- Peterhead v Kelty Hearts.....
- Queen of South v Edinburgh ...

CINCH SCOTTISH LEAGUE TWO

- Albion v Forfar.....
- Annan Athletic v East Fife.....
- Dumbarton v Bonnyrigg Rose.....
- Stenhousemuir v Elgin.....
- Stirling v Stranraer.....

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE

- Aldershot v FC Halifax (5.20)
Live on BT Sport 1
- Bromley v Maidstone Utd.....
- Dag & Red v Altrincham.....
- Dorking v Notts County.....
- Gateshead v Boreham Wood...
- Maidenhead v Woking.....
- Oldham v Eastleigh.....
- Scunthorpe v York.....
- Solihull Moors v Barnet.....
- Southend v Wrexham.....
- Wealdstone v Torquay.....
- Yeovil v Chesterfield.....

FA WOMEN'S SUPER LEAGUE

- Man Utd v Reading..... (noon)

TOMORROW

PREMIER LEAGUE

- Brentford v Arsenal..... (noon)
Live on Sky Sports Main Event
- Chelsea v Liverpool..... OFF
- Everton v West Ham..... (2.15)
Live on Sky Sports Main Event
- Manchester Utd v Leeds..... OFF
CINCH SCOTTISH PREMIERSHIP
- Motherwell v Hearts.....
- St Mirren v Celtic..... (noon)
Live on Sky Sports Football

FA WOMEN'S SUPER LEAGUE

- Aston Villa v Man City..... (12.30)
Live on BBC2
- Leicester v Tottenham.....
- Liverpool v Chelsea..... (5pm)
Live on Sky Sports Football
- West Ham v Everton.....

It's not Jack's fault!

Pep blames team-mates for Grealish's poor stats



by JACK GAUGHAN

PEP GUARDIOLA launched an impassioned defence of Jack Grealish's performances for Manchester City yesterday.

Grealish has been the subject of sustained criticism since becoming the most expensive British player in history when arriving from Aston Villa for £100million last season.

That heightened in midweek when the England international was substituted with City losing against Borussia Dortmund in the Champions League before a dramatic late turnaround.

But Guardiola came out fighting for the 27-year-old ahead of today's Premier League trip to Wolves, insisting that Grealish was left isolated by his team-mates at the Etihad on Wednesday night.

The City manager also believes that an ankle problem picked up last month has slowed the progress the forward had made during an impressive pre-season tour of the United States.

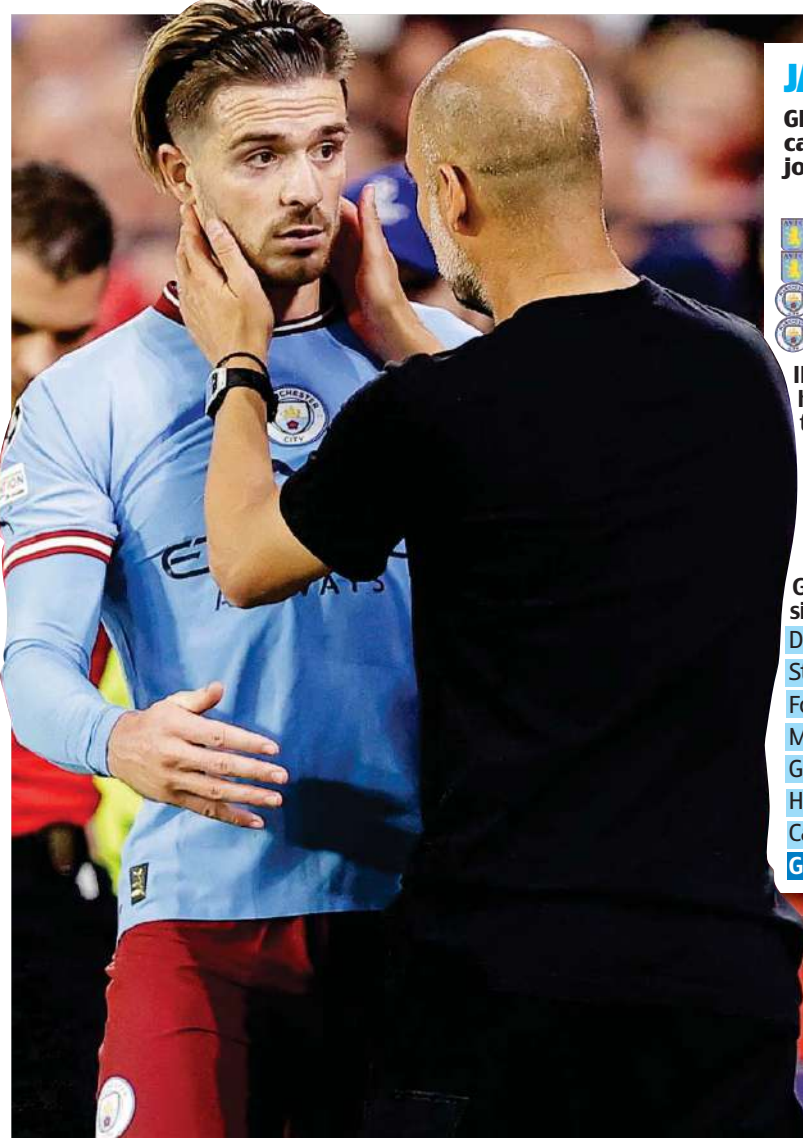
'I know him and I'm more than happy with what he's doing,' Guardiola said. 'Now it's just a question of time to get back a little bit of his momentum that he had at the beginning of the season.'

'We were lucky the injury was not worse. In the last game, he was the only one up front who made aggressive runs one against one. But to make assists, he didn't have his team-mates in the box so we left him isolated.'

'When he went against the full back, only Erling (Haaland) was there. (Ilkay) Gundogan was not there, Kevin (De Bruyne) was not there and they should have been. In the first half, we didn't make any movements to help the players who had the ball and give him possibilities to make it easier.'

Grealish has registered three goals and three assists across his 28 Premier League appearances since joining Guardiola's team and the fact that his numbers are not higher — and significantly lower than the likes of Riyad Mahrez — is a source of criticism.

At Villa, he was the main attacking protagonist and talisman, making 32 goal contributions in his last 62 Premier League matches over two campaigns. 'We didn't



JACK'S STRUGGLES

GREALISH has struggled to capture his best form since joining City for £100million.

Year	Games	Goals/assists
19-20	36	8/6
20-21	26	6/12
21-22	26	3/3
22-23	2	0/0

INJURIES and a lack of form has seen him spend less time on the pitch too.

■ 19-20:	3,234 mins	94.5%
■ 20-21:	2,185 mins	63.9%
■ 21-22:	1,916 mins	57.5%
■ 22-23:	134 mins	25%

(% of total mins)

Goal involvements in PL since start of 21-22 season:

De Bruyne	28
Sterling	19
Foden & Jesus	17
Mahrez & B Silva	16
Gundogan	14
Haaland & Rodri	11
Cancelo	9
Grealish	6

Back Jack: Pep Guardiola insists that he has full faith in £100m record buy Jack Grealish

GETTY IMAGES

sign him for the incredible goals or assists,' Guardiola added. 'It was another reason and when he plays he does it. I want (him) to make goals and I want assists and he does, too.'

'But it's not about that, it's about his contribution without the ball and what he can produce for the other ones and the many, many things that he's able to do.'

'He's such a nice guy and in the games when he didn't play, he is the first to help the team and in the training sessions he's always there.'

Grealish — who is battling for a starting berth in Gareth Southgate's England team for the World Cup — has always remained acutely aware of the public perception of his displays.

He has in the past referenced a desire to improve his figures,

remarks usually made on the back of debates in the media.

Guardiola told him to forget about outside noise. 'All the time we ask the players to be themselves, don't think about what the people expect you to be,' he said.

'Maybe some players listen and it gives them courage to get better, and they have to know how they affect what is written or what they hear.'

'(But) always I say to them, "You know exactly how you played and what we were looking for. Did they (pundits) know the plan? They don't know it, but you know it, so you don't have to listen to what people say".'

'You know, and every one of us knows, if you did your best on this specific day. Some players say, "I played bad," but afterwards their friends or the media say they

played well, and then they are happy. There is no sense in that. You know exactly after the game how you did, and this is the most important thing.'

Julian Alvarez entered the fray as Grealish departed against Dortmund and impressed with added energy on the right-hand side. Signed from River Plate for £14m, the attacker has had to remain patient for opportunities.

'I know all the highlights are from Erling Haaland, I understand that with his numbers, but I said during pre-season in the United States — this guy (Alvarez) is really good,' Guardiola said.

'He helped us increase our intensity. In the training sessions we've seen how clinical, fast and clever he is in those moments. We need him in the centre. These guys have to be close to the goal.'

SPORT IN BRIEF AND WEEKEND FIXTURES

SKY BET LEAGUE ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Ipswich.....	8	6	2	0	16	4	12	20
Portsmouth.....	8	6	2	0	17	6	11	20
Plymouth.....	8	6	0	2	14	9	5	18
Sheff Wed.....	8	5	1	2	15	7	8	16
Bolton.....	8	4	2	2	10	6	4	14
Cambridge.....	8	4	1	3	12	10	2	13
Peterboro.....	8	4	0	4	14	9	5	12
Shrewsbury.....	8	3	3	2	8	8	0	12
Exeter.....	8	3	2	3	12	8	4	11
Wycombe.....	8	3	2	3	11	10	1	11
Barnsley.....	8	3	2	3	10	9	1	11
Fleetwood.....	8	2	5	1	8	7	1	11
Derby.....	8	3	2	3	7	8	-1	11
Charlton.....	8	2	4	2	12	10	2	10
Oxford Utd.....	8	3	1	4	7	8	-1	10
Lincoln City.....	8	2	4	2	11	13	-2	10
Port Vale.....	8	2	3	3	11	13	-2	9
Bristol Rvs.....	8	2	2	4	10	13	-3	8
Cheltenham.....	8	2	2	4	8	11	-3	8
Forest Green.....	8	2	2	4	7	16	-9	8
Accrington.....	8	1	4	3	9	12	-3	7
MK Dons.....	8	2	1	5	7	10	-3	7
Morecambe.....	8	0	4	4	15	11	-4	4
Burton Albion.....	8	0	1	7	8	22	-14	1

SKY BET LEAGUE TWO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Leyton Orient.....	8	7	1	0	15	4	11	22
Stevenage.....	8	6	1	1	11	6	5	19
Barrow.....	8	6	0	2	13	9	4	18
Salford City.....	8	5	2	1	13	6	7	17
Northampton.....	8	5	2	1	16	10	6	17
Bradford.....	8	4	2	2	11	7	4	14
Doncaster.....	8	4	2	2	10	10	0	14
Mansfield.....	8	4	1	3	12	9	3	13
Grimsby.....	7	3	3	1	7	5	2	12
Crewe.....	8	3	3	2	10	9	1	12
Swindon.....	8	2	5	1	9	8	1	11
Sutton Utd.....	8	3	2	3	9	9	0	11
Carlisle.....	7	2	4	1	8	7	1	10
Walsall.....	8	2	3	3	10	8	2	9
AFC Wm'dn.....	8	2	2	4	8	11	-3	8
Tranmere.....	8	2	1	5	8	9	-1	7
Newport C.....	8	2	1	5	9	11	-2	7
Stockport.....	8	2	1	5	10	13	-3	7
Harrogate Tn.....	8	2	1	5	6	11	-5	7
Crawley Tn.....	8	1	3	4	8	12	-4	6
Colchester.....	8	1	3	4	7	12	-5	6
Gillingham.....	8	1	3	4	2	9	-7	6
Hartlepool.....	8	0	4	4	6	15	-9	4
Rochdale.....	8	0	2	6	5	13	-8	2

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

NFL: Kansas 27 Los Angeles 24.

BASEBALL

MLB: Cleveland 2 Chicago White Sox 8, Toronto 0 Tampa Bay 11, Miami 5 Philadelphia 3, Houston 5 Oakland 2, New York Mets 7 Pittsburgh 1, Minnesota 3 Kansas City 2, St. Louis 2 Cincinnati 3, Arizona 4 San Diego Padres 0.

CYCLING

UCI PROSERIES TOUR DE LUXEMBOURG — Stage 4 (Remich — Remich, 26.1km): 1 M Skjelmoese Jensen (Den) Trek-Segafredo 34mins 05secs, 2 K Vauquelin (F) Team Arkea-Samsic at 3secs, 3 M Hulgaard (Den) Uno-X Pro Cycling Team at 13secs. **Selected Other:** 68 H Wood (GB) Cofidis at 2mins 58secs. **Overall:** 1 M Skjelmoese Jensen (Den) Trek-Segafredo 13hrs 07mins 27secs, 2 K Vauquelin (F) Team Arkea-Samsic at 3secs, 3 S

Bax (Ned Alpein-Deceuninck at 14secs. **Selected Other:** 45 H Wood (GB) Cofidis at 3mins 53secs.

GOLF

FORTINET CHAMPIONSHIP (Napa, California) — 1st rnd (US unless stated, Par 72): 63 — J Lower; 65 — M Homa; 66 — Byoung-Hun An (Kor); Seong-Hyeon Kim (Kor); J. J. Spaun; 67 — R Fowler; B Garnett; E. Grillo (Arg); S Harrington; M Schmid (G); R Shelton; G Sigg; N Taylor (Can); S Theegala; Sung-Hoon Kang (Kor); 68 — T Moore; S Ryder; J Bramlett; M Kuchar; T Montgomery; K Streelman; B Stuard; A Svensson (Can); D Thompson; D Willett (Eng); 69 — T Alexander; T Cone; T Detry (Bel); A Eckroat; B Hagy; T Hoge; S Jaeger (G); D Lipsky; B Martin; H Matsuyama (Jpn); A Nunez (Arg); A Schenk; S Stevens; C Stroud; B Taylor (Eng); 70 — Chengtsung Pan (Tai), J Augenstein, Z Blair, J Bridgeman.

TODAY'S ACTION

CRICKET — Royal London One-Day Cup Final: Kent v Lancashire (Trent Bridge, 11.00am).

ICE HOCKEY — Premier Sports Challenge Cup Group A: Belfast v Fife, Glasgow v Dundee. **Group B:** Cardiff v Guildford. **Group C:** Sheffield v Manchester. **Elite League:** Nottingham v Coventry.

RUGBY LEAGUE — Betfred Super League Semi-Final (1.0): St Helens v Salford. **Betfred League 1 Elimination Final (5.30):** North Wales Crusaders v Rochdale.

RUGBY UNION — The Championship (8.10): Argentina v South Africa. **Gallagher Prem (3.0):** Bath v Sale, Harlequins v Saracens, Leicester v Newcastle, Northampton v London Irish (2.0), Wasps v Bristol. **United Championship (3.05):** Edinburgh v Dragons (7.35), Lions v Blue Bulls, Scarlets v Ospreys (5.15), Ulster v Connacht (7.35), Zebre v Leinster (1.0), Cardiff Rugby v Munster.

RFU Championship (3.0): Amptill v Ealing Trailfinders, Bedford v London Scottish, Hartpury RFC v Doncaster (2.30), Jersey Reds v Coventry, Richmond v Caldy.

TOMORROW

CRICKET — First Women's One Day International: England v India (Hove, 11.00am).

ICE HOCKEY — Premier Sports Challenge Cup Group A: Fife v Belfast. **Group B:** Coventry v Cardiff. **Elite League:** Dundee v Sheffield, Guildford v Glasgow.

RUGBY LEAGUE — Women's Super League Group 1 Grand Final (3.30): York City Knights v Leeds Rhinos. **Betfred Championship Elimination Final (5.30):** Barrow v Batley (3.0), Halifax v York. **Betfred League 1 Qualifying Final (3.0):** Swinton v Doncaster.

RUGBY UNION — Gallagher Premiership (3.0): Worcester v Exeter. RFU Championship (3.0): Nottingham v Cornish Pirates.

KEOWN TALKS TACTICS



FLYING FULL BACKS ARE DRIVING FORCE BEHIND HOWE'S REVOLUTION

EDDIE HOWE will bounce into St James' Park today a proud man, having played a pivotal role in the recent history of both Bournemouth and Newcastle. As a young manager, he masterminded Bournemouth's rise from League Two to the Premier League. His fingerprints remain all over the club and he will be so pleased to see them back in the top flight. Now, though, Howe is at the start of another journey which could prove very special. He halted Newcastle's slide towards the Championship last season and, with the help of the new owners and their deep pockets, has completely turned the club around. They were winless in 11 matches when he arrived but Howe never panicked. He built confidence and togetherness and quickly identified new targets. Newcastle had to get the January transfer window right. And they did, making shrewd signings including Bruno Guimaraes and Kieran Trippier. There are plenty of other clubs who have shown that spending big does not guarantee success. But between January and the

end of last season, only Liverpool, Manchester City and Tottenham won more points than Newcastle. This was a sleeping giant that yearned for unity and success before Howe arrived. Now, every home game feels like a celebration and his guidance has transformed players such as Joelinton and Miguel Almiron. They have continued to build and invest well, with another £100million spent this summer. They are already replacing new signings with newer ones and Alexander Isak is proof of how the quality keeps improving. The Swede is an immense talent. That much was clear from his goal against Liverpool, the way he travels with the ball, the intelligence of his movement — and he will get even better. Newcastle look more solid at the back and signing Matt Targett permanently was crucial, too. It means that Newcastle have two accomplished full backs in Targett and Trippier. They set everything off and a potent relationship is building down the right flank. When Almiron, being left-footed, instinctively drives inside, one of



Hands-on: Howe has transformed Joelinton and Co

REUTERS

Trippier or Joe Willock breaks down the wing. Last season under Howe, Almiron started only 11 Premier League games. This year, he has been a mainstay, with supporters responding to his hard work — although he has some way to go to reach the cult status afforded to Joelinton, whose move into midfield has been career-changing. But if Newcastle want to challenge for the top six, they need their best players available every week. That means

Guimaraes in midfield, Wilson vying with Isak up front and Allan Saint-Maximin a constant presence on the left. He looked world-class against Manchester City recently and it is often Saint-Maximin who Newcastle rely on to find a way through stubborn defences. If Howe can lead Newcastle to the top four or — if you dare to dream — the title, he will forever become an iconic figure in the North East. But they are still some way off those dizzy heights and he will

need time to nurture and develop this team. Today is also a big day for Bournemouth and their caretaker manager Gary O'Neil. He has secured a draw against Wolves and an outstanding win at Nottingham Forest. The way he has coped with those first two games tells me he is desperate to be the club's next manager. I was at their 3-2 win over Forest and I was struck by O'Neil's tactical nous and how relentless he was in trying to win a game that looked lost. With his side 2-0 down at half-time, O'Neil knew that if he had any chance of landing the job, he had to get a result. So he was bold, switching from four to five at the back, shifting Marcus Tavernier to left wing back, introducing Ryan Fredericks and moving the creative Ryan Christie into a central area. The switch allowed Philip Billing more freedom and his tremendous strike shifted the momentum entirely. O'Neil has already worked under Jonathan Woodgate and Scott Parker as a coach, and now he wants to take that next step. So far, so good — although Bournemouth have conceded a joint-record 18 goals in six Premier League games this season, while they have managed just a measly 12 shots on target. No doubt this will be an emotional day for Howe but if Newcastle's European ambitions are to be achieved, nothing short of three points will do.

LEWIS STEELE'S PREMIER LEAGUE BOOTROOM



WOLVES v MAN CITY

Today, 12.30pm, Molineux
Referee: Anthony Taylor (Games 5, 17, 2)
TV/radio: BT Sport/talkSPORT



WOLVES: Raul Jimenez will miss out, Sasa Kalajdzic is unlikely to play again this season, while Diego Costa has not played a match since December. **Out:** S Kalajdzic (knee), R Jimenez (groin).

MANCHESTER CITY: Aymeric Laporte will be fit after the international break, while Kyle Walker's fitness is 'getting better'. **Out:** A Laporte (knee). **Doubt:** K Walker (other).

Last meeting: Wolves 1 Man City 5.
Sportsmail prediction: City win.

4 CITY lost both meetings with Wolves in 2019-20 but have won each since, including Kevin De Bruyne scoring four in a 5-1 win last term. Erling Haaland could be the first man to score on his first four PL away games, while City are unbeaten in 21 away games.



NEWCASTLE v BOURNEMOUTH

Today, 3pm, St James' Park
Referee: Craig Pawson (Games 4, 19, 0)
TV/radio: talkSPORT 2



NEWCASTLE: Allan Saint-Maximin is unlikely to start, while Callum Wilson is also a doubt. **Out:** A Saint-Maximin, J Shelvey (both thigh). **Doubt:** C Wilson (thigh), B Guimaraes (hamstring).

BOURNEMOUTH: David Brooks had had a setback in recovery from cancer with a hamstring injury. **Out:** D Brooks (thigh), B Pearson (knee), J Rothwell (thigh). **Doubt:** J Stanislas (groin).

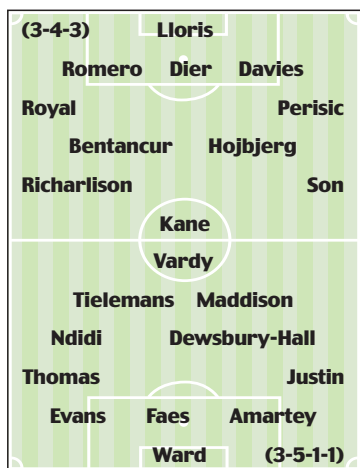
Last meeting: Bournemouth 1 Newcastle 4.
Sportsmail prediction: Newcastle win.

18 BOURNEMOUTH have let in 18 goals this season. No side has ever conceded more after six Premier League games. Newcastle are winless in five league matches, though they have lost just one of their last 13 games at St James' Park.



TOTTENHAM v LEICESTER

Today, 5.30pm, Tottenham Hotspur Stadium
Referee: Simon Hooper (Games 4, 12, 0)
TV/radio: Sky Sports, BBC 5 Live



TOTTENHAM: Antonio Conte said that 'no players are undroppable' when asked about out-of-form Son Heung-min, who is yet to score this season. **Out:** Lucas (calf).

LEICESTER: Dennis Praet trained yesterday and 'everyone else is fine'. Wout Faes in line for his debut. **Out:** R Pereira (calf), R Bertrand (knee). **Doubt:** D Praet (ankle).

Last meeting: Tottenham 3 Leicester 1.
Sportsmail prediction: Tottenham win.

1 LEICESTER are bottom with just one point and the last time they went winless in their opening seven league games was 1983-84 — though they were not relegated. Harry Kane has more goals (19) against Leicester than any other team.



BRENTFORD v ARSENAL

Tomorrow, 12pm, Gtech Community Stadium
Referee: David Coote (Games 2, 5, 0)
TV/radio: Sky Sports, talkSPORT



BRENTFORD: Sergi Canos is fit again after missing start to the season, though Ethan Pinnock and Christian Norgaard are still out. **Out:** C Norgaard (achilles), E Pinnock (knee).

ARSENAL: Mikel Arteta is 'concerned' about Emile Smith Rowe's persistent injuries, Oleks Zinchenko could return. **Out:** E Smith Rowe (groin), M Elneny (thigh). **Doubt:** T Parthey (thigh).

Last meeting: Arsenal 2 Brentford 1.
Sportsmail prediction: Arsenal win.

7 BRENTFORD have lost just one of their last 17 home games against fellow London clubs. Only Erling Haaland (11) has been directly involved in more Premier League goals than Ivan Toney (7) this term. Arsenal have not drawn for 23 matches.



EVERTON v WEST HAM

Tomorrow, 2.15pm, Goodison Park
Referee: Michael Oliver (Games 5, 16, 0)
TV/radio: Sky Sports, BBC 5 Live



EVERTON: Dominic Calvert-Lewin is close to a return, while Asmir Begovic will deputise in goal. **Out:** J Pickford (hamstring), M Holgate, A Townsend (both knee), Y Mina (ankle), B Godfrey (calf).

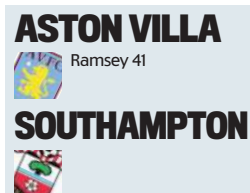
WEST HAM: David Moyes reported no new injury concerns after trip to Denmark midweek. Lucas Paqueta might start again. **Out:** N Aguerd (ankle), B Johnson (thigh).

Last meeting: West Ham 2 Everton 1.
Sportsmail prediction: Draw.

27 EVERTON are winless and have gone without a win in the opening seven games in just three seasons — 1926-27, 1956-57 and 1994-95. But they've won more Premier League games against West Ham (27) than they have any other side.



TOM COLLOMOSSE
at Villa Park



Ramsey rushes to Gerrard's rescue

Villa boss breathing easier after Jacob sinks Saints

WRITING in the programme, Steven Gerrard had challenged his players to produce a performance to make Aston Villa supporter Prince William proud.

And as the Premier League returned to action for the first time since the death of the Queen, Gerrard's men gave the Prince of Wales the chance to celebrate a victory.

It was not a classic performance, but Jacob Ramsey's goal shortly before half-time was enough to ensure Villa squeezed past Southampton and claimed only their second win in the league this season.

Had Villa lost this one, Gerrard might have felt a little jittery heading into the international break. Yet though this game will not live long in the memory, Villa at least looked more solid than in recent weeks. This was their first clean sheet in 12 attempts, while Saints have now gone 13 without a shutout.

Before kick-off, there was a fitting tribute to Her Majesty. The players stood around the centre circle and observed a minute's silence, before English soprano Laura Wright led a rendition of *God Save the King*.

With the lights dimmed, supporters created a spectacular effect by switching on the torches of their phones. When the action began, Gerrard's big call seemed to be paying off, with Philippe Coutinho looking bright on the left of the attack. Skipper John McGinn also looked right up for the challenge, crunching into tackles early on.

Gerrard had called for his team to build on their 1-1 draw with Manchester City a fortnight ago yet after an encouraging start, they lost their way a little.

Moussa Djenepo roared past Lucas Digne on the right and Ezri Konsa produced a fine defensive header to concede a corner. Shortly before the half-hour, Konsa



Jacob's cracker:
Ramsey volleys
Villa in front off
the underside
of the bar REX

was again decisive when he cut out Che Adams' low cross.

Villa grew back into the game after that, with Coutinho trying to pull the strings. The Brazilian's delightful turn left James Ward-Prowse baffled and his drive from 20 yards was only just off target.

Four minutes before the break, Ashley Young's cross somehow reached Coutinho at the far post, only for Gavin Bazunu to turn it behind. When the corner was cleared to Coutinho, Ollie Watkins met the cross and though Bazunu pushed it on to the bar, the ball bounced off Mohammed Salisu and fell perfectly for Ramsey. His close-range volley

went in via the underside of the bar and was upheld after a brief VAR check.

Villa were forced into a change shortly before the break when Douglas Luiz replaced the injured Boubacar Kamara. The midfielder nearly made it three goals from corners this term but his dipping effort was flicked over.

Gerrard was pacing his technical area and could not settle. When Konsa misplaced a simple pass to Young and the ball drifted out of play, the Villa boss could not hide his fury as he leapt in the air and returned to his seat, arms folded.

Saints made a double change at the break with Juan Larrios and

Joe Aribo on for Romain Perraud and Ibrahima Diallo, and both made lively starts.

Tyrone Mings had a fine game at the back and was making a nuisance of himself in the Saints box, too, winning a header and laying the ball off for Ramsey, whose shot lost its sting after hitting a defender. In the 70th

HOW THEY STAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Arsenal	6	5	0	1	14	7	7	15
Man City	6	4	2	0	20	6	14	14
Tottenham	6	4	2	0	12	5	7	14
Brighton	6	4	1	1	11	5	6	13
Man Utd	6	4	0	2	8	8	0	12
Fulham	7	3	2	2	12	11	1	11
Chelsea	6	3	1	2	8	9	-1	10
Liverpool	6	2	3	1	15	6	9	9
Brentford	6	2	3	1	15	9	6	9
Leeds	6	2	2	2	10	10	0	8
Newcastle	6	1	4	1	7	6	1	7
Southampton	7	2	1	4	7	11	-4	7
Aston Villa	7	2	1	4	6	10	-4	7
Bournemouth	6	2	1	3	5	18	-13	7
Wolves	6	1	3	2	3	4	-1	6
Crystal Palace	6	1	3	2	7	9	-2	6
Everton	6	0	4	2	4	6	-2	4
West Ham	6	1	1	4	3	8	-5	4
Nottm Forest	7	1	1	5	6	17	-11	4
Leicester	6	0	1	5	8	16	-8	1

minute, the ground rose and applauded in recognition of the Queen's 70 years' service.

Villa took off Coutinho with six minutes left and also gave a debut to midfield signing Leander Dendoncker. Despite Saints boss Ralph Hasenhuttl using all five substitutes, his team could not find a way back into the game.

ASTON VILLA (4-3-2-1): Martinez 6; Young 6.5, Konsa 7, MINGS 7.5, Digne 6; Ramsey 6.5 (Dendoncker 67min, 6), Kamara 6.5 (Luiz 44, 7), McGinn 6.5; Bailey 6 (Buendia 67, 6), Coutinho 7 (Ings 84); Watkins 6.5. **Scorer:** Ramsey 41. **Booked:** Coutinho, Ramsey, Young. **Manager:** Steven Gerrard 7.

SOUTHAMPTON (4-2-3-1): Bazunu 7; Walker-Peters 6, Bella-Kotchop 7, Sallisu 6.5, Perraud 6 (Aribo 46, 6.5); Ward-Prowse 6, Diallo 5.5 (Larios 46, 6); Djenepo 7, Elyounoussi 6 (Edozi 79), A Armstrong 5.5 (S Armstrong 71, 6); Adams 6 (Mara 71, 6). **Booked:** Ward-Prowse. **Manager:** Ralph Hasenhuttl 6. **Referee:** Tony Harrington 6. **Attendance:** 40,758.



**SCAN HERE FOR EXTRA
COVERAGE FROM
VILLA v SOUTHAMPTON**

Magic Mead gives Arsenal perfect start

LIFT-OFF for Arsenal, for England hero Beth Mead, and for a Women's Super League season that promises to be unlike anything this country has seen.

National mourning meant a false start to this campaign — last week's curtain raiser was postponed — but there was no stuttering from Arsenal at a sold-out Meadow Park last night. They ran out comfortable winners over Brighton, with Mead picking up where she left off after the Lionesses' glorious summer.

She netted Arsenal's third and fourth. Mead created their second for Stina Blackstenius, too, after Kim Little set them on their way. At the other end, there was little to trouble

FA WOMEN'S SUPER LEAGUE



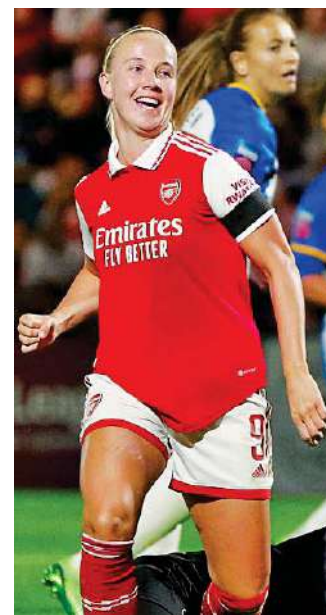
By DANIEL MATTHEWS

Leah Williamson, who captained England to Euro 2022 glory, and the rest of the Arsenal back four. Not after Emma Kullberg was sent off early for Brighton. So tougher tests await Jonas Eidevall's side, who were pipped to the title by a single point by Chelsea last season. Bigger crowds, too. Arsenal are set to smash the WSL attendance record in next week's north London derby,

having sold more than 45,000 tickets. They are not alone — every club has seen a spike in support after England's glorious run, when Mead won the Golden Boot and Player of the Tournament. After all of the noise and colour and ecstasy of last summer, though, 3,238 supporters fell silent. Before kick-off, a minute to remember. Then the national anthem. And then some football. Arsenal have never failed to beat Brighton in the WSL and it wasn't long before regular service resumed. After just seven minutes, Blackstenius latched on to a through-ball and was about to pull the trigger when her ankle was clipped by Kullberg. Arsenal

demanding a penalty, referee Lisa Benn rightly gave a free-kick; the foul had occurred inches outside the area. A red card followed and Kullberg could have few complaints. Except perhaps one: replays suggested Blackstenius had strayed offside in the build-up. Down to 10, Brighton were in survival mode already. Arsenal launched wave after wave of attack. Until Little's opener on 28 minutes, however, few clear-cut chances arrived. Caitlin Foord had the clearest of them, dragging a shot wide, and the cruel irony is that Arsenal's breakthrough came shortly after Brighton's first real foray forward — Elisabeth Terland firing wide.

Somehow it stayed 1-0 until the break. Despite Blackstenius hitting the bar. Despite Lia Walti forcing Megan Walsh into a fine save and despite a hatful of Arsenal openings. A Brighton counter ended with a squandered opportunity — this time Katie Robinson's shot was well saved by Manuela Zinsberger. Moments later, Arsenal made the visitors pay again, Mead finding Blackstenius who finished emphatically. From there, it was a case of how many. Mead combined with partner Vivianne Miedema to make it three. Her second, Arsenal's fourth, arrived seven minutes from time after a neat dummy. It could, and probably should, have been more.



At the double: Mead after scoring her second REUTERS



ADAM SHERGOLD
at the City Ground

N FOREST

Awoniyi 11
O'Brien 77

2

FULHAM

Adarabioyo 54
Palhinha 57
Reed 60

3

THE brutal reality has hit for Nottingham Forest. Despite spending all that money in the summer, they still look a long way short of being a competitive top-flight outfit.

Results such as that six-goal thrashing at the hands of Manchester City and the home defeat by Tottenham are all part of the elite learning curve.

But when you're tossing away leads to lose to Bournemouth, as they did a fortnight ago, and here against Fulham, then alarm bells have to be clanging very loudly.

Despite leading thanks to Taiwo Awoniyi's early header, Forest never looked comfortable and they were blown away by three Fulham goals in the space of six tumultuous minutes just after half-time.

Forest were sliced open and outsmarted with embarrassing ease as Tosin Adarabioyo nodded in from a corner, Joao Palhinha slammed home a second and Harrison Reed scored his first Fulham goal in his 81st appearance.

There was hope when Lewis O'Brien pulled one back but Forest deserved nothing. Steve Cooper has much to think about over the international break.

After a fortnight stewing over how his team chucked away a two-goal lead at the Vitality, Cooper made three changes for this meeting with another club promoted with them in May.

Out went captain Joe Worrall, who hadn't missed a league fixture when fit for a long, long time, and in came Willy Boly. Jesse Lingard and Cheikhou Kouyate got the chop with Remo Freuler and Awoniyi replacing them.

Cooper has stunning luxury of choice. Forest signed 22 players over the summer, so theoretically any poor performance could see you dumped out the team.

Fulham boss Marco Silva introduced the tall, lean figure of Issa Diop into the centre of his defence, with Tim Ream pushed out to left



Reed all about it: Fulham's Harrison Reed celebrates after making it 3-1 GETTY IMAGES

Alarm bells ring as Forest suffer another collapse

back. Willian, one of the more surprising Premier League signings of the summer, made his full debut.

Fulham made the brighter start but they trailed on 11 minutes. Morgan Gibbs-White swung in a dangerous corner that Ryan Yates met as he soared over the Fulham defenders. But he couldn't direct the header goalwards, instead diverting it to the back post where the alert Awoniyi justified Cooper's decision to start him with a header of his own. Fulham were

stung by the goal but reacted well. Given the form Aleksandar Mitrovic is in, they're always threatening whenever they can get him on the ball.

The visitors felt aggrieved when Willian was played through by Mitrovic, with the 34-year-old outpacing the 31-year-old Steve Cook before the Forest man grabbed his shoulders and dragged him down just outside the box.

Referee Jarred Gillett decided Cook didn't qualify as the last

man, producing only the yellow card, and replays suggested Boly was covering.

From a Fulham corner moments later, Mitrovic's glancing header was blocked by Dean Henderson at the near post to keep Forest ahead at the break.

Forest almost doubled their lead within seconds of the restart when Gibbs-White set Brennan Johnson clear but the forward's touch let him down. That would prove costly when Fulham equalised

8
FOREST have dropped eight points from winning positions this season, the joint-most in the league along with Leicester. They have conceded 14 goals in their last four games.

with their first set-piece of the second half. While Forest's defenders concentrated on blocking off Mitrovic, Adarabioyo took the scenic route from the back of the box to meet Willian's corner and plant a header into the bottom corner.

Forest had dedicated too many resources to stopping one big man, they neglected another.

The turnaround was complete three minutes later — and in breathtaking fashion. Willian again was the architect down the right, running forward before finding Kenny Tete. The defender had the vision to spot Palhinha lurking on the edge of the box and the ball was hit sweetly and screeched into the top corner.

The City Ground, in full cry just minutes earlier, was well and truly silenced and it got even better for Fulham a couple of minutes later.

This time it was Bobby De Cordova-Reid showing intent down the left side and his cutback seemed to miss everyone out until Reed arrived and skimmed home to end his Fulham goal drought.

Forest looked buried but substitute O'Brien gave them hope after Johnson's cross was cleared to him but Fulham held on.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST (3-4-2-1): Henderson 6; Boly 6 (Lingard 63min, 6), Cook 5 (Worrall 63, 3), McKenna 5; Williams 5; Yates 6.5; Freuler 6 (O'Brien 70, 6), Lodi 5; Gibbs-White 7; Johnson 6, Awoniyi 7 (Surrledge 70, 6).

Scorers: Awoniyi 11, O'Brien 77.

Booked: Boly, Cook.

Manager: Steve Cooper 5.

FULHAM (4-2-3-1): Leno 6; Tete 7, Adarabioyo 7, Diop 6, Ream 6; Reed 7, Palhinha 7.5; WILLIAN 8, Pereira 7 (Cairney 83); Decordova-Reid 7; Mitrovic 6.5.

Scorers: Adarabioyo 54, Palhinha 57, Reed 60.

Booked: Diop, Palhinha, Tete, Pereira.

Manager: Marco Silva 7.

Referee: Jarred Gillett 6.

Attendance: 28,654.

SCAN HERE FOR EXTRA COVERAGE FROM FOREST v FULHAM

SCAN ME

Brighton fined for FA breach

BRIGHTON have been fined £366,600 by the FA for breaching agent regulations and misrepresenting financial transactions in relation to several transfers, including that of then-record signing Mat Ryan. The Australia goalkeeper joined from Valencia for £5.2million in 2017 and played a key role in keeping the Seagulls in the Premier League for four seasons, before joining Real Sociedad last year. But Brighton have been found guilty of misrepresenting Ryan's transfer by

EXCLUSIVE By MATT HUGHES

breaching FA rule A3, which states clubs should not 'conceal or misrepresent the reality and/or substance of any matters in relation to a transaction.' The club's head of recruitment Paul Winstanley has also been fined £6,400. The breach relates to Brighton's use of player intermediaries. Ryan's agent, former Middlesbrough striker Mikkel Beck, was registered on the paperwork as solely

working for the club, when in reality he was also representing the player. This practice enables players to avoid paying tax on work carried out by their agents, but it is outlawed by the FA and Inland Revenue. Brighton were also found guilty of misrepresentation when they signed Israel midfielder Beram Kayal from Celtic in 2015. Brighton sources told *Sportsmail* they acted in good faith and reported the errors to the FA when they were discovered.



Fans' favourite: United star Martinez GETTY IMAGES

Lisandro's giant leap

By CHRIS WHEELER

IT HAS been quite the turnaround for Lisandro Martinez at Manchester United since what Gary Neville described as his 'Patrice Evra moment'. Evra suffered the embarrassment of being substituted at half-time of his debut in January 2006. For Martinez, United's £55.3million signing, that moment came at half-time of United's 4-0 defeat at Brentford in his second game. Erik ten Hag resisted the temptation to take the Argentine out of the firing line, instead dropping Harry Maguire and bringing

in Raphael Varane to play alongside Martinez in central defence. Martinez's next game brought redemption with victory over Liverpool and then three more. Evra never looked back after making a false start to his career at Old Trafford, and Martinez also has the makings of a United cult hero. 'It's amazing every game they (the fans) sing "Argentina, Argentina" because I love my country,' he said after United's 2-0 Europa League win at FC Sheriff. 'It makes me very proud. Every stadium you feel the

atmosphere and that is great because I want to play every game at 100 per cent.' There is more to Martinez's game than sheer tenacity. He brings the ball out from the back and reads the game well, which helps compensate for his smaller physique. Mention of Martinez's lack of height at 5ft 9in is a source of irritation for a player who believes he can handle the demands of English football. 'The Premier League is the best league in the world,' he said. 'At the beginning, it was a bit hard but now we are doing well.'

GRAEME SOUNNESS

A jumped-up UEFA exec tells us we can't sing our anthem? Dream on!

IT MADE me equally sad and angry that a handful of people showed disrespect during the minute's silence at a couple of games this week.

The bottom line is that someone has died. A family are in mourning. It happens to be our Queen. My Queen. A woman who has given 70 years of selfless service. The supreme example of what it is to be a public servant.

I make no claim to be a historian but I say without the remotest doubt we are talking about the greatest woman to have lived within our shores and arguably the greatest Briton ever. You talk about the likes of Winston Churchill, who served this country so well. But this woman has served her country for 70 years. Faultlessly, in everything she did.

For some mindless fools to protest in the manner they did was an embarrassment to themselves, an embarrassment to their football clubs and an act of utter classlessness.

The word 'respect' is not even in the vocabulary of these people. Thank God they were a small minority and the sport we love has shown the appreciation many millions feel for a monarch who was also a patron of England's FA.

If you are talking about the other end of the scale — and well beyond it — look at the way my old club, Glasgow Rangers, paid their own tribute on Wednesday night. The coordination and detail which

Why I'm fired up on radio

MY DEBATE about Chelsea owner Todd Boehly — and whether Thomas Tuchel should have been sacked — with Simon Jordan on our talkSPORT show this week was my most enjoyable yet. Simon and I agree on a surprising amount, though we will have our moments on a regular basis. Meanwhile, co-host Jim White is sitting there with a rather large can of petrol, just

topping up the fire occasionally. When you're a manager in a press conference after the game has just finished, you're vulnerable because your emotions are not quite where they should be and you know journalists are trying to get a headline out of you. It's a bit like that with Jim. He has an endless supply of jerry cans under his table. I'm really enjoying it.

went into the creation of the Queen's silhouette against a Union flag, covering the Broomloan Stand, was magnificent.

There was also the playing of the national anthem, despite that utterly ridiculous order from UEFA that they should not.

The home supporters at Ibrox were always going to sing the anthem and never going to comply with some faceless bureaucrat sitting in Nyon. Dream on if you think that order was going to be adhered to. Some jumped-up

UEFA executive thinks they can tell us we can't sing our national anthem after our Queen of 70 years dies. It was never going to happen. Not play the anthem? Hold on a minute. This is merely football we're talking about. Our monarch passes away and some minion at UEFA tells us what we can and can't do. I don't know who on earth came up with that decision.

The need for appropriate respect and a sense of perspective also made it 100 per cent right that football matches were cancelled at

'Cricket should not have taken place. Sport means nothing in the great sweep of our national history'



all levels last weekend. I saw cricket being praised to the rafters for carrying on, barely 24 hours after the death of our Queen, but no sport should have taken place.

The fact they'd started the Test series against South Africa is immaterial. This is sport. A game of cricket. A game of football. It means nothing, simply nothing in the great sweep of our national history. At this moment, no mark of respect can be too great.

This will be a weekend of reflection for me. I'm doing the charity Kiltwalk tomorrow in Edinburgh, my home city, which bade the Queen a final farewell in such an unforgettable way this week. My son James and I will be walking 21 miles in aid of the charity DEBRA, which predominantly helps children. The charity, of which I'm a vice president, does so much wonderful work.

And as soon as I've finished there, I'll be travelling to the airport to get a flight south and back home to Dorset, before travelling up to London for the funeral.

If I can get 100 yards away, 200 yards away, then I'll be there. I was born a month before her coronation. To me, this feels such a significant moment.

Football is starting up again. The controversies, dramas and skills we all love are already a part of our lives once more.

A few days without that, remembering there is a bigger picture and a world beyond our sport, hurt nobody — even though some could not find the common decency to display basic respect.

SPARE US 'SOCCER' LECTURE, BOEHLY

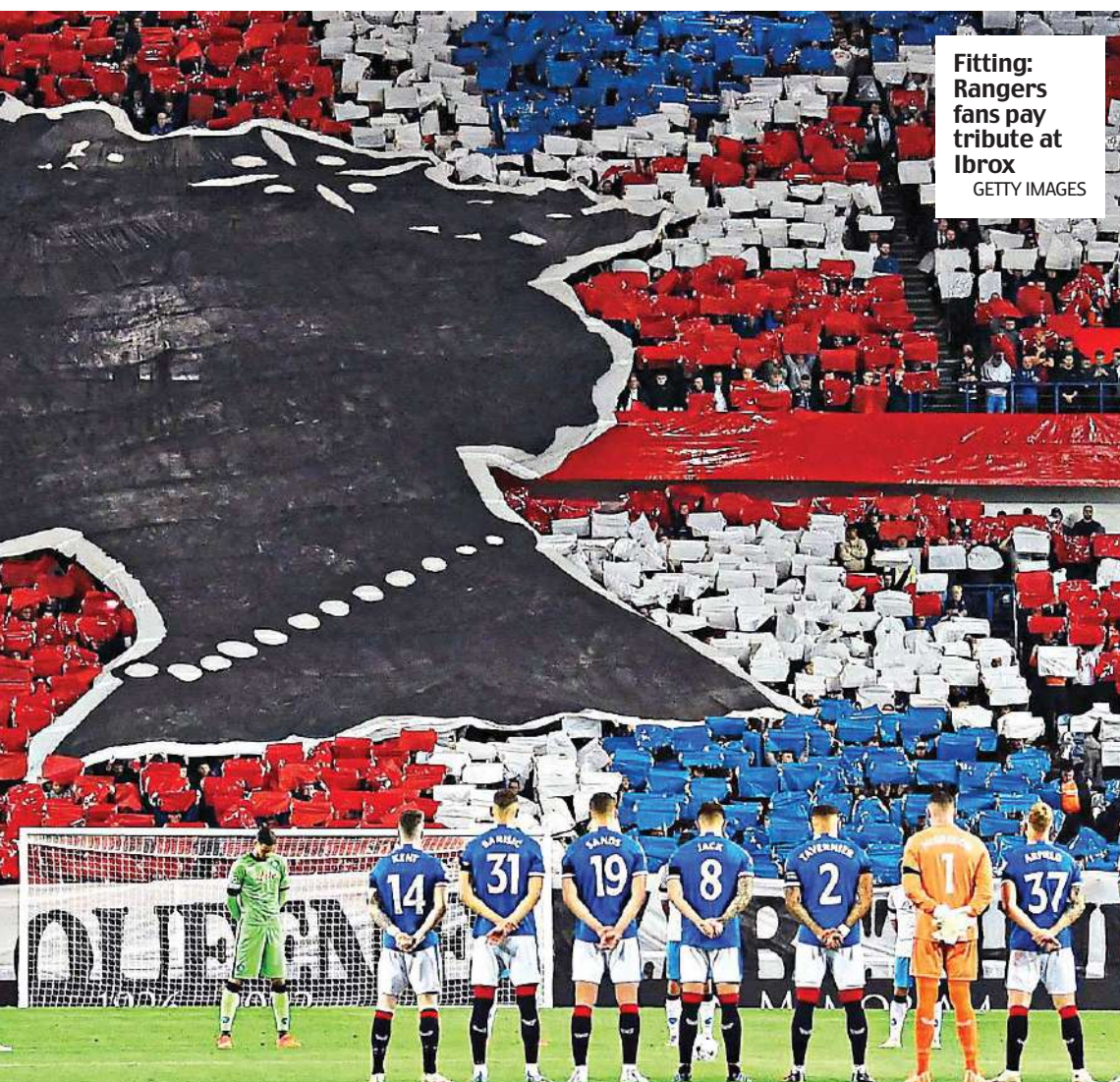
HERE comes Todd Boehly, marching into the Premier League — the most successful, most watched and most envied league in the history of 'soccer' — instantly informing us that we need a North v South match and relegation play-offs.

Aside from the obvious fixture congestion, there's a very good reason why there wouldn't be any appetite for an American-style North v South match. North America is a continent, while we are a small island. Culturally and geographically, our nations are vastly different. I wouldn't say we can't make improvements in different areas but don't be telling us what we should be doing after five minutes in our game.

IT'S the less obvious things that tell me Erling Haaland is a very special player. His goal celebrations, for instance. For many players it's a 'me, me, me' celebration these days, running to the crowd and kissing the badge. This isn't Haaland's way. He celebrates with his team-mates and compliments them, too. That shows me a maturity which is way beyond his 22 years.



THE STRONGEST VOICE IN FOOTBALL



Fitting: Rangers fans pay tribute at Ibrox

GETTY IMAGES

COSTA IS A WIND-UP MERCHANT, BUT HE'S WORTH ALL THE TROUBLE

I'VE always thought that Diego Costa (right) looks like someone who belongs in a Spaghetti Western. He's a bandit and I have to say that I would have loved to play against him and with him. He's a player who would have been right at home here in the 1980s.

The attractive part to me, when I see him play, is that he appears to enjoy every duel that comes his way. He wants to be the instigator. He wants to have you concentrating not on your game but on him. You know he's going to wind you up. He's going to stand on you. He's going to bump into you when the ball's nowhere near you. He'll leave a foot here, an elbow there. He is just Mr Aggro and yes, I'd certainly have fancied going up against a competitor like that. He has just arrived at Wolves at 33 — an age when there should be plenty of life left in him, though it's what's going on in his head which is less certain. He has been a difficult boy to manage wherever he has gone and, as his manager, you have to be prepared to look the other way on occasions. It's a trade-off. As a manager, you go into this deciding it's worth putting up with the



special attention you'll have to give him, because of what he brings. I look at Wolves and feel that goals are the last piece of the jigsaw. They have some lovely players who create chances every game. But Raul Jimenez is not getting them the goals he was before the serious head injury he suffered nearly two years ago. Fabio Silva, who struggled in the Premier League, has gone out on loan to Anderlecht. Sasa Kalajdzic was injured on his debut earlier this month. Costa has been back in Brazil at Atletico Mineiro since August last year and hasn't played since

January, but he'll be fine. He'll stand in the tunnel, looking defenders right in the eye, thinking: 'I'm going to leave a bit on you at the first opportunity and see what reaction I get.' That's still very much with him. I'm not sure you ever lose it.

It's personal with him. If he doesn't go out every time to get into an argument and square up to someone, he feels he isn't taking part in the game. And that will rub off on team-mates who are not quite up for the fight. If they see someone who wants to fight everybody and anybody, they'll respond to that. Some aspects of his conduct have been unacceptable. Pretending to cough on reporters, when he played for Atletico Madrid at Anfield at the start of the Covid pandemic, was not something we should ever see in our football. He's better than that and doesn't want to be remembered for it. But there is nothing like experience in life. Costa brings a lot of it, from the top levels of football, with Chelsea and Atletico. A striker the wrong side of 30 will have to be quite special if he is going to get goals in our league. I think Costa will.

CHILE FURY OVER ECUADOR LET-OFF

By LEWIS STEELE

CHILEAN football authorities said yesterday was a 'dark day for football' after FIFA dismissed a claim of ineligibility which would have seen Ecuador thrown out of the World Cup.

Chile lodged a complaint with the global governing body over Ecuador player Byron Castillo, who they claimed was not born in Ecuador and should not therefore have represented the country in World Cup qualifying.

Chile alleged Castillo was born in Colombia — something the player himself had seemed to confirm in a recorded interview — and had cost them a spot in Qatar.

A FIFA statement yesterday read: 'Among other considerations, (the committee) deemed that on the basis of the documents presented, the player was to be considered as holding permanent Ecuadorian nationality.'

Jorge Yunge, general secretary of the Chilean FA, responded: 'This

is a dark day for football and for the credibility of the system.

'The footballing world heard a player who helped Ecuador qualify for the World Cup admit he was born in Colombia and that he gained an Ecuadorian passport using false information.'

Eduardo Carlezco, the lawyer for the Chilean FA, added: 'I have never seen in my entire life as a lawyer an injustice like this one.'

'There are a huge number of documents that, alone, prove without any reasonable doubt the player was born in Colombia.'

'It clearly seems that anything we could be able to file would not be enough to validate the claim.'

'It's a sad day for football and for fair play. The message is clear: cheating is allowed. We will appeal (to the Court of Arbitration for Sport).'

CONTE READY TO DROP SON

By HENRY CLARK

TOTTENHAM boss Antonio Conte says he is prepared to drop the out-of-sorts Son Heung-min for this evening's match against Leicester — even though the forward is already 'angry'.

Son is still waiting for his first goal of the season despite hitting 23 last term to share the Golden Boot with Mo Salah.

The South Korean drew another blank in Spurs' 2-0 Champions League loss to Sporting Lisbon this week and Conte could now shake up his front three.

'Sonny, for sure, he is not happy because he's not scoring,' Conte said. 'It's normal and I like that he's a bit angry for this situation, because it means that he wants to try to change it. We are talking about Sonny and he's a

really important player for us.

For sure it can happen that in some games he can't play from the start, like Harry (Kane) also. But only to protect him, to give the possibility to rest, to take care of his energy and to bring us a win. For sure I will make rotation on Saturday.'

Conte also revealed he had spoken to Dejan Kulusevski to reiterate his trust in the winger after he was consigned to the bench for a third consecutive match. 'It's not easy to make that decision (to drop Kulusevski),' Conte said.

'But every decision I'm going to make, it's always for the best of the team.'

PICKFORD WILL MAKE QATAR

By DOMINIC KING

FRANK LAMPARD has assured England manager Gareth Southgate that Jordan Pickford will be fit for the World Cup.

Pickford damaged his thigh during his outstanding performance in the Merseyside derby two weeks ago and will not play any part in England's Nations League fixtures against Italy and Germany.

Everton's medical staff have discussed Pickford's rehabilitation with the FA. As things stand, he is in line to go back between the posts against either Southampton, on October 1, or Manchester United the following week.

'I'll be honest — Jordan would go and play on one quad for England in a friendly next week,' said

Everton boss Lampard. 'We have to be sure that we do the right thing. I've spoken to Gareth and our physios and England's physios are in conjunction together, making sure we do the right thing for Jordan.'

'And the right thing for Jordan is the right thing for Everton and England. Hopefully it will be in the next two or three weeks.'

Lampard has confirmed that Everton are in talks with Pickford's representatives and Anthony Gordon about new deals.

'It's something we want to do,' said Lampard. 'We want to get the right solution.'

FOLEY FANCIES THE CHERRIES

THE Las Vegas businessman at the centre of a £150million takeover attempt at Bournemouth first revealed by Sportsmail is Bill Foley — the owner of the NHL's Vegas Golden Knights.

Discussions are said to be heading towards a positive conclusion, with sources indicating a deal could be completed by the World Cup. However, before any takeover can be rubber-stamped, Foley will likely have to prove there is no conflict of interest amid his

investment links with Crystal Palace. In June, Foley signed a non-binding letter of intent to invest in Palace co-owner John Textor's Eagle Football Holdings LLC.

If a deal goes through, half the Premier League would have American owners with Arsenal, Aston Villa, Chelsea, Crystal Palace, Fulham, Leeds, Liverpool and Manchester City all having either majority or minority shareholders from the USA.

SAMI MOKBEL

SOUNESS: How dare UEFA tell us we cannot play our anthem



THE BEST COLUMN
IN FOOTBALL
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Pep: I didn't sign Jack for goals or assists!

City manager's jaw-dropping claim as he tells critics to lay off £100m Grealish

By JACK GAUGHAN

PEP GUARDIOLA has insisted he did not sign Jack Grealish for goals or assists, as he launched an impassioned defence of Manchester City's £100million man yesterday.

Grealish, who has scored just three league goals for the champions since joining them in August 2021, has been the target of widespread criticism.

But Guardiola said: 'We didn't sign (Jack) for the incredible goals or assists. It was another reason and when he plays he does it. I want him to make goals and assists, and he does, too.'

Grealish was substituted when City were trailing Borussia Dortmund 1-0 on Wednesday — a match they went on to win — but Guardiola added: 'I am more than happy with what he's doing.'

'Now it's just a question of time to get back a little bit of his momentum that he had at the start of the season.'

'In the last game, he was the only one up front who made aggressive runs one against one. But to make assists, he didn't have his mates in the box so we left him isolated.'

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Fulham gatecrash the top six!

Forest felled: Reed (front) is joined by jubilant team-mates after his decisive goal for Fulham REX

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PREMIER LEAGUE			
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	FULHAM.....3		SOUTHAMPTON..0

Yorkshire threat to withdraw Gale's pay-off

YORKSHIRE have sensationally threatened to withdraw their offer of compensation to Andrew Gale the day after announcing they had reached a financial settlement with their former captain and coach. In an extraordinary development, *Sportsmail* can reveal Yorkshire have so far refused to sign a legal agreement which would see them pay Gale a six-figure sum in compensation for sacking him unfairly, along with 15 other

EXCLUSIVE
By MATT HUGHES

colleagues, in light of Azeem Rafiq's racism claims. Yorkshire had reached an agreement with Gale, and former bowling coach Richard Pyrah, at a mediation hearing in Leeds on Wednesday, following months of negotiations. In another twist, the club are believed to have signed the paperwork relating to Pyrah's

settlement, increasing the sense Gale is being singled out. Gale and Pyrah have signed their parts of the agreement, but Yorkshire officials left the talks on Wednesday without adding a signature, which has led to a farcical stand-off. Yorkshire's U-turn is understood to have come amid anger from board members that *Sportsmail* revealed details of the settlements with Gale and Pyrah on Wednesday. Despite this, Yorkshire themselves went

public with a statement on their website on Thursday, which was later removed. Yorkshire's back-sliding prompted a frantic day of talks between both sides' legal teams yesterday. Unless the club have another change of heart, the matter will now be decided at a Leeds Employment Tribunal hearing on October 31. Yorkshire declined to comment last night.

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TWO GREAT EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEWS



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TEN DAYS

that shook the world



Picture: GETTY

**Stunning pictures and a glorious
souvenir poster for your window**



Worry etched on their faces: Prince William drives the Duke of York and the Earl and Countess of Wessex into Balmoral after they all flew



*Shock sweeps nation as
Palace reveals doctors'
concern — and royals
rush to Balmoral*

to Scotland, following a Buckingham Palace statement that doctors were seriously concerned for the Queen's health

Picture: JEFF J MITCHELL/GETTY

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8



Sign of change: As crowds gather at Buckingham Palace amid realisation that the end is near, downpours give way to a double rainbow



Focal point: After the Queen's death is announced at 6.30pm, the Union flag flies at half mast above the thousands outside the Palace

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9



'Darling Mama, thank you': The King gives an emotional first address to the nation as monarch, sharing the shock of a people in mourning

Ten days that shook the world



Tributes: A red-eyed Sophie, Countess of Wessex — who was especially close to the Queen — inspects the flowers left at the gates of Balmoral



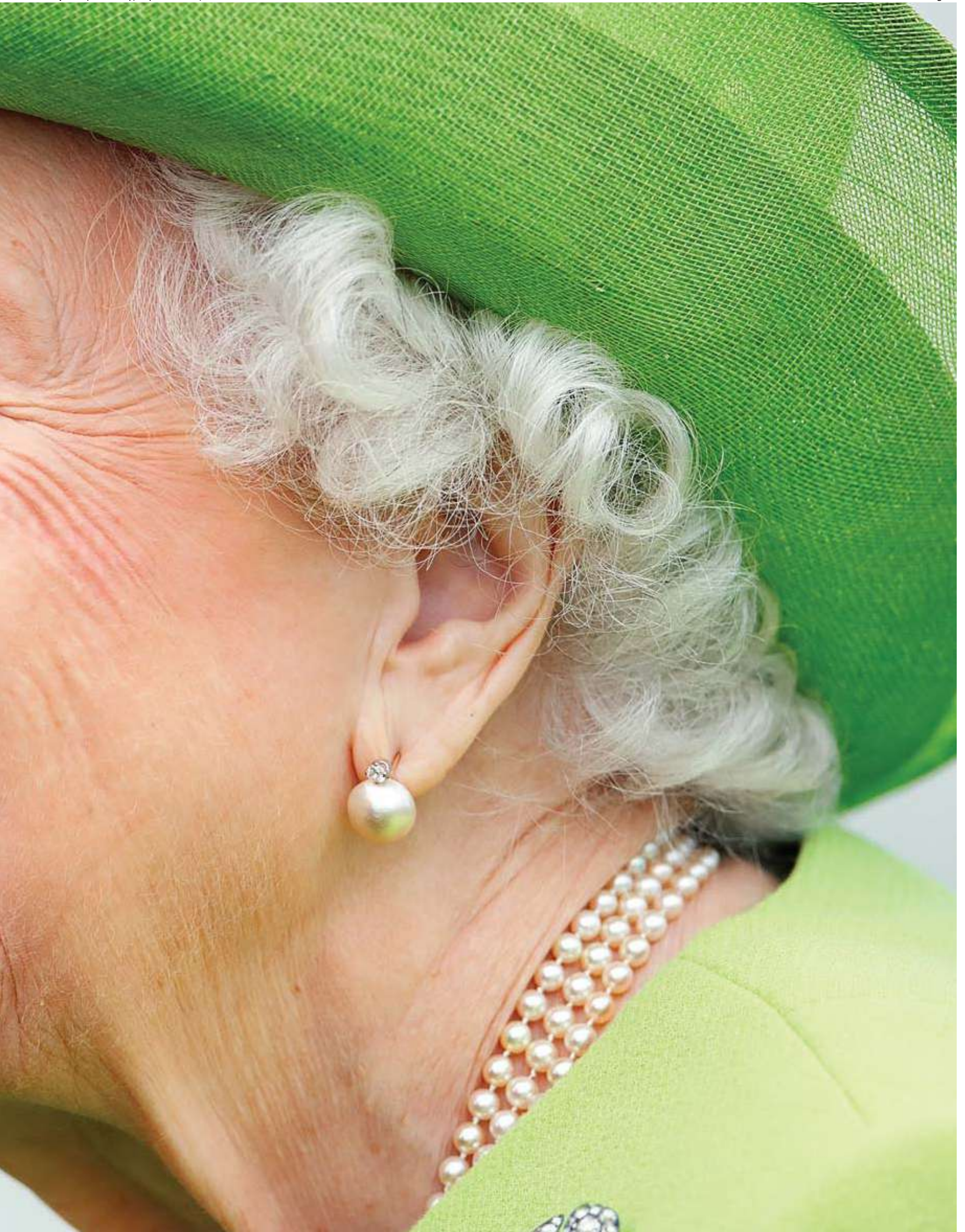
Grandsons reunited in grief: Princes William and Harry look at the floral tributes at Windsor Castle, supported by their wives Kate and Meghan

Picture: KELVIN BRUCE/JAMES WHATLING/CRAIG HIBBERT



Daily  Mail

*Thank you,
Ma'am*



MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

Queen of Scots: King Charles stands vigil by the coffin in Edinburgh's St Giles' Cathedral. Thousands file past during the 24 hours it stays there



Back in the capital: After the Queen's coffin is flown down from Edinburgh, a hearse carries her home through the gates of Buckingham Palace

Ten days that shook the world



Sombre parade: The Queen's coffin is drawn on a gun carriage along the Mall by the King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery, on its way from



Picture: LEON NEAL/GETTY

Buckingham Palace to Westminster Hall, where it will lie in state until her funeral on Monday so thousands can pay their respects

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14



Mourning dress: The Queen Consort, Princess of Wales, Countess of Wessex and Duchess of Sussex pay their respects in Westminster Hall



Family in step: The King, Princess Royal, Duke of York and Earl of Wessex march behind the coffin, followed by Princes William and Harry

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15



Heartfelt: The Prince and Princess of Wales inspect flowers at Sandringham and tell crowds how moved they are by the nation's grief



Picture: DARREN FLETCHER

Honour: Head bowed, a member of the Blues and Royals stands guard over Her Majesty's coffin as it lies in state in Westminster Hall

SATURDAY Mail Puzzles

WIN
£750

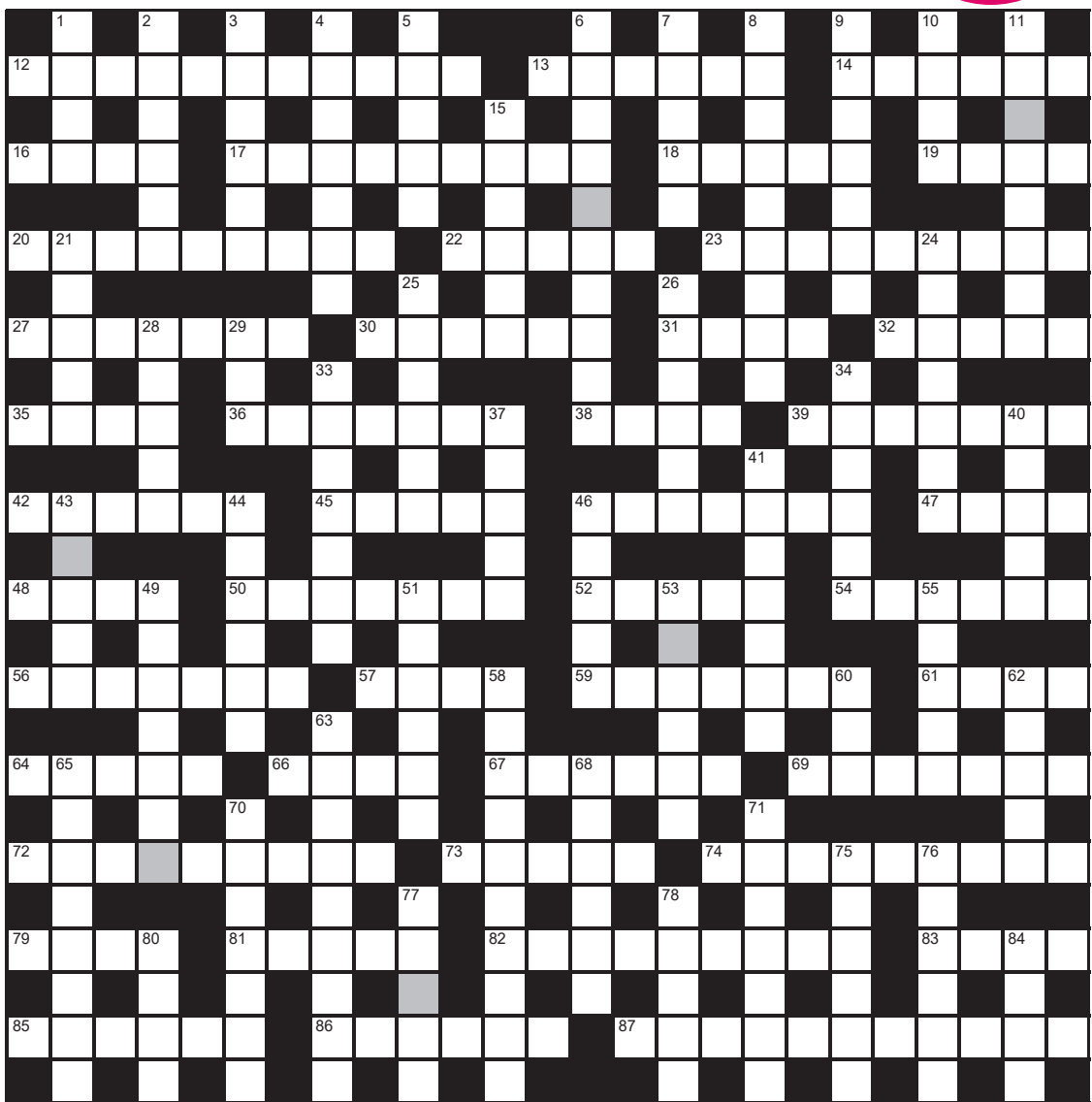
CRYPTIC CLUES

GIANT CROSSWORD

CHOOSE cryptic or quick, answers are the same. **SOLUTIONS ON MONDAY**

ACROSS

- 12 Chapter with a local unit for deployment as something to be reckoned (11)
13 Expression of surprise about misfortune in wood (6)
14 By the sound of it, try to make a purchase as a result of this (6)
16 Cherished part of parade, arguably (4)
17 Panic mobilised factory worker in a submissive way (3,2,4)
18 Good wet conditions for a staple food (5)
19 Look after switching direction for covering of fruit? (4)
20 Backward group of people by mistake concealed explosive device (5,4)
22 Eccentric left to carry refined wind instrument (5)
23 Belittle doctor reading note (9)
27 GP is so excited before end of surgery and fond of chat (7)
30 Graduate with new short expression for a teasing exchange (6)
31 Yearn for accommodation in hotel on Gibraltar (4)
32 Greek character with Edward showing little enthusiasm? (5)
35 Bar getting rid of area I love for liveliness (4)
36 First signs of others' unease in rickety U.S. car that's noisy (7)
38 What an artist might do amid set changes (4)
39 Object to established way of thinking (7)
42 Councillor is enthralled by beginning in long passage (6)
45 Indian drink consumed by grateful assistant (5)
46 What teachers might want to avoid is unaccepted social usage (3,4)
47 Light pastry in advertisement (4)
48 Solid business concern (4)
50 Support on holiday for retreat (4,3)
52 Competitor from Rhode Island beginning to vie with Alabama (5)
54 Go back to find name in weird novel (6)
56 Stan and Fay concocted unreal story (7)
57 Rebuff man lately occupying underwater vehicle (4)
59 Significant activity of an informant? (7)
61 Likelihood of sailor holding two degrees (4)
64 Leg I'd shifted making smooth movement (5)
66 Check tips provided by esteemed industrialist (4)
67 Knighted figure getting to curse, we hear, public entertainment (6)
69 Lug gems about and transport contraband? (7)
72 Handy gear for replacing shrub (9)
73 A bowler might deploy this energy showing backbone (5)
74 Insignificant person in summit receiving awful quips (9)
79 Second group requires outlet (4)
81 Recall place, for example, to start the day? (3,2)
82 A chap with toil cooked small sausage (9)
83 Feature of scrabble until end? Not entirely (4)
85 Convince American with varied ruses (6)
86 Rex given poor share in slice of bacon (6)
87 Surprising boost found when touring university that's off limits (3,2,6)



FOR A CHANCE TO WIN £750: Solve crossword to reveal the word reading down the shaded boxes. **HOW TO ENTER:** Call 0901 293 6231 and leave six-letter answer and details, or **TEXT 65700** with the word **XWORD**, your answer and name. Texts and calls cost £1 plus standard network charges. One winner chosen from all correct entries received between 00.01 today (Saturday) and 23.59 tomorrow (Sunday). UK residents aged 18+, excl NI. Full terms apply, see Page 52. **NEED A CLUE?** Text **HINT** to **65700** for six answers, or call **0901 293 6235**. Texts and calls cost £1 plus standard network charges. Today's clues available from 00.01 Saturday to 23.30 on Sunday.

QUICK CLUES

ACROSS

- 12 Reckoning (11)
13 Deciduous tree (6)
14 As a result of this (6)
16 Cherished (4)
17 Submissively (3,2,4)
18 Hard seed (5)
19 Rind (4)
20 Concealed explosive device (5,4)
22 Wind instrument (5)
23 Belittle (9)
27 Fond of personal chat (7)
30 Teasing exchange (6)
31 Yearn (4)
32 Indistinct (5)
35 Liveliness (4)
36 Strident (7)
38 Carve (4)

- 39 Way of thinking (7)
42 Long passage (6)
45 Indian drink (5)
46 Unaccepted social usage (3,4)
47 Advertisement (4)
48 Stable (4)
50 Retreat (4,3)
52 Competitor (5)
54 Reel backwards (6)
56 Imagination (7)
57 Rebuff (4)
59 Significant (7)
61 Likelihood (4)
64 Smoothly move (5)
66 Check (4)
67 Large public entertainment (6)
69 Transport contraband (7)
72 Shrub (9)
73 Backbone (5)

- 74 Insignificant type (9)
79 Outlet (4)
81 Rise from bed (3,2)
82 Small sausage (9)
83 Scrabble piece (4)
85 Convince (6)
86 Slice of bacon (6)
87 Off limits (3,2,6)

DOWN

- 1 Grow weak (4)
2 Sacred beetle (6)
3 Draw out (6)
4 Interim (7)
5 Harass (5)
6 Small occasional residence (4-1-5)
7 Put straight (5)
8 Very common (3,1,5)
9 Programme taking calls (5-2)

- 10 Enfold (4)
11 One missing (8)
15 Croquet stick (6)
21 Smell (5)
24 Summary (5-2)
25 Vernacular (6)
26 Imperturbable (6)
28 Incline (5)
29 Norm (3)
33 Male bovine (7)
34 Stew gently (6)
37 Light rowing boat (5)
40 Mischievous (5)
41 Set of implements (7)
43 Ceramic material (5)
44 Pollute (6)
46 Rupture (5)
49 Bullfighter (7)
51 Decorative (6)
53 Bravery (6)

- 55 Mistaken (5)
58 Budget tourist (10)
60 Place for exercise (3)
62 Greek letter (5)
63 Daring experience (9)
65 Constant supporter (8)
68 Stale (6)
70 Scornful laughter (7)
71 Repudiate (7)
75 Threadbare (6)
76 False (6)
77 Sudden convulsion (5)
78 Centre of interest (5)
80 Excursion (4)
84 Outdoor pool (4)

DOWN

- 1 A director wearing jacket from France gets to grow weak (4)
2 Sacred beetle namely associated with Egyptian, perhaps (6)
3 Draw out priest, one found in court (6)
4 A GP post reconstituted on an interim basis (7)
5 One that's addicted to something as feature of a hunt (5)
6 A peer tried to alter small occasional residence (4-1-5)
7 Put straight a policy on radio (5)
8 A type now upset about end of vacation? That's very common (3,1,5)
9 Hope inn broadcast programme taking callers (5-2)
10 Reported criticism for snack with a filling? (4)
11 One missing a book dispatched by European conglomerate lately (8)
15 Revamped team keeping two lengths in croquet stick (6)
21 Smell made by duo working in heart of port (5)
24 Stage of a competition ahead needs summary (5-2)
25 A post I translated in vernacular language (6)
26 Calm place attended by a group of police (6)
28 Slant in endlessly dull exercise (5)
29 Standard place for walking a dog is restricted (3)
33 U.S. actress, one commonly seen in a field (7)
34 One on a diet ignoring large stew (6)
37 Go downhill following fellow to get light rowing boat (5)
40 Mischievous characters found in novel, finally (5)
41 Set of implements also left by Christopher (7)
43 Companion at home with a ceramic material (5)
44 Pollute seabed possibly (6)
46 Break to get sun in brewing centre? That's not on (5)
49 Mad rota devised for one working in a ring (7)
51 A tenor after broadcast is decorated? (6)
53 Bravery shown by victor with a stern look (6)
55 Nuts grown? That's mistaken (5)
58 Support shown by a clerk outwardly in person for budget tourist? (10)
60 James mentioned place for exercise (3)
62 Some strudel taken for character in Crete, say (5)
63 Tavern due for renovation? It's an exciting thing (9)
65 Ally is to mobilise as faithful supporter (8)
68 Rotten crash in car close to bollard (6)
70 Discordant singer around start of gig brings scornful laughter (7)
71 Repudiate troubled divas with pained expression (7)
75 Disreputable bash by ground (6)
76 Military group barring one street in Paris? That's not correct (6)
77 Pam's agitated about Bob's sudden convulsion (5)
78 Centre of interest for limited custom? Not half (5)
80 Excursion to the edges of Ullswater (4)
84 Top officer's first in outdoor pool (4)

QUICK CROSSWORD

No 9,271

ACROSS

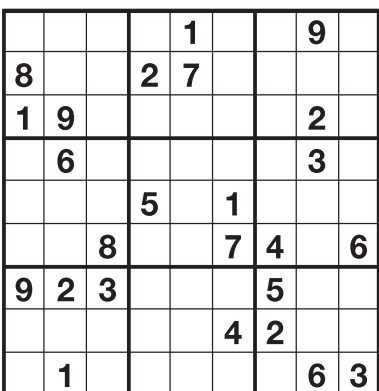
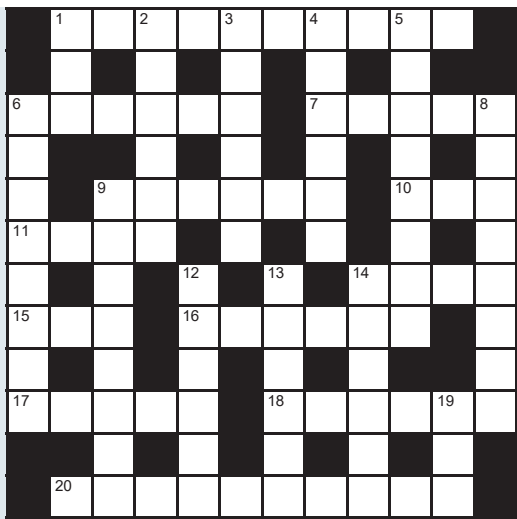
- 1 Combine efforts (4,6)
6 Mediterranean island (6)
7 Lawful (5)
9 German case (6)
10 Animal doctor (3)
11 Very keen (4)
14 Public school (4)
15 Perform (3)
16 Counsel (6)
17 Type of poem (5)
18 Discrimination against elderly people (6)
20 Place of nostalgia (6,4)

DOWN

- 1 Rapture, delight (3)
2 Raid or incursion (6)
3 Petrified remains (6)
4 Alleviation (6)
5 Remove by digging (8)
6 Behave or dress showily (3,1,4)
8 Metallic element (8)
9 Forceful and bitter verbal attack (8)
12 Number puzzle (6)
13 Enclosure for birds (6)
14 Skin condition (6)
19 Take to court (3)

FRIDAY'S SOLUTION — (No 9,270) ACROSS: 1 Various. 7 Head-on. 8 Chateau. 9 Kiss. 10 Oats. 12 Begonia. 14 Seminar. 16 Limb. 18 Pour. 20 Exploit. 21 Tirana. 22 Fall for. **DOWN:** 1 Vicious. 2 Roast. 3 Open. 4 Shudder. 5 Bankroll. 6 Bonsai. 11 Slip road. 12 Bay leaf. 13 Arbitrator. 15 Exotic. 17 In-off. 19 Opal.

SOLUTION ON MONDAY



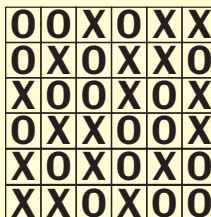
PUB QUIZ ANSWERS:

1 Inspector Morse 2 Saul 3 East Germany 4 George Bernard Shaw 5 India 6 Diabetes 7 Kate Bush 8 Prune 9 Friday The 13th 10 Four.

SUDOKU

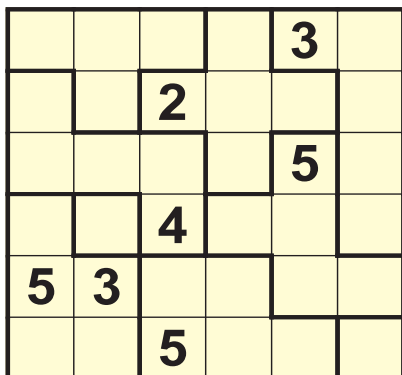
FILL in all squares in the grid so each row, column and each of the 3x3 squares contains all the digits from 1 to 9. **SOLUTION ON MONDAY**

KUROSU SOLUTION



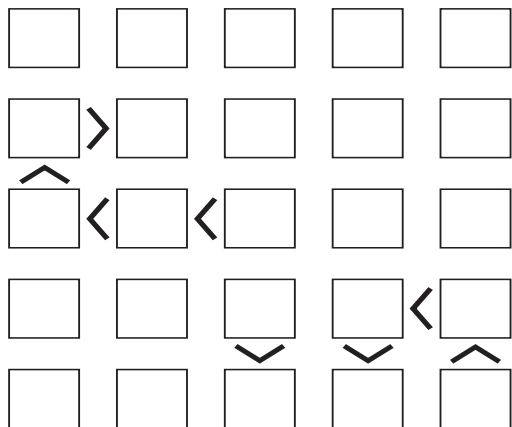
MORE PUZZLES IN WEEKEND

SUGURU



A ONE-CELL outlined block contains the digit 1; a two-cell block contains 1 and 2; a three-cell block contains 1, 2 and 3; and so on. The same digit must not appear in neighbouring cells — NOT EVEN DIAGONALLY!

SOLUTION ON MONDAY



- 1 ITV's Lewis is a spin-off from which other detective drama?
2 In the Old Testament, who was the first king of Israel?
3 Which former country was also known as the GDR?
4 Who wrote the play Major Barbara?

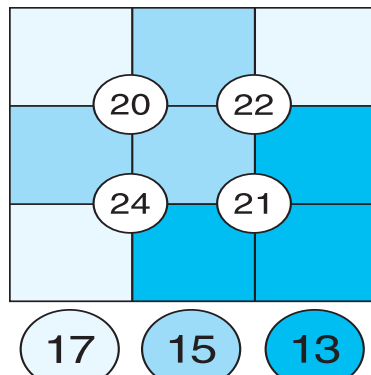
PUB QUIZ

- 5 In which Asian country is the city of Puducherry?
6 Insulin is used to regulate which disease?
7 Who wrote and had a number one hit with the song Wuthering Heights?

- 8 What name is given to a sweet plum that has been dried?
9 Jason Voorhees is the villain of which series of horror films?
10 How many players are there in a curling team?

ANSWERS: OPPOSITE PAGE

SUKO



PLACE 1 to 9 in the grid so the number in each white circle is equal to the sum of the four surrounding tiles, and tiles of the same colour add up to the number in the corresponding circle below.

SOLUTION ON MONDAY

FUTOSHIKI

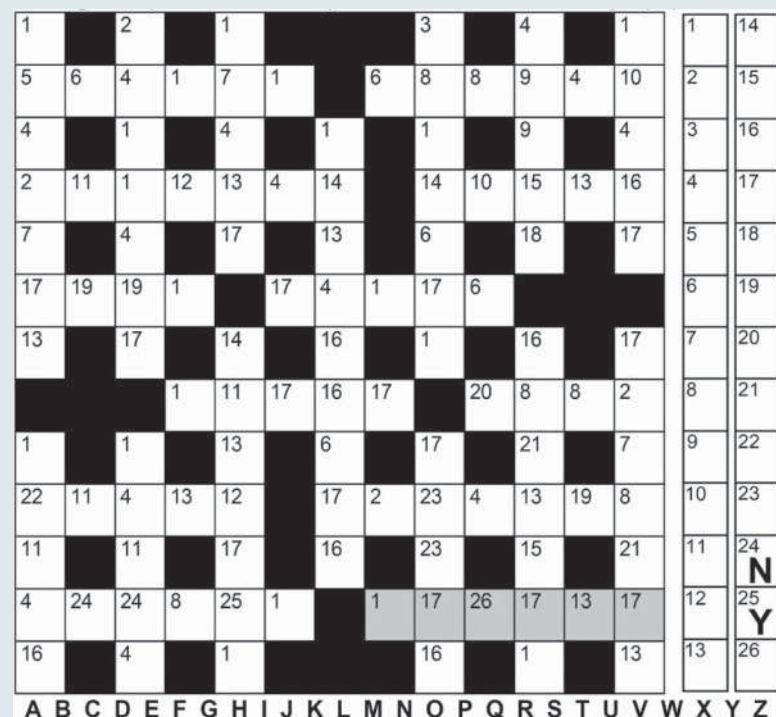
FILL blank squares so every row and column contains 1 to 5 once only. Symbols between squares indicate if a number is larger (>) or smaller (<) than the number next to it.

SOLUTION ON MONDAY

CODEWORD

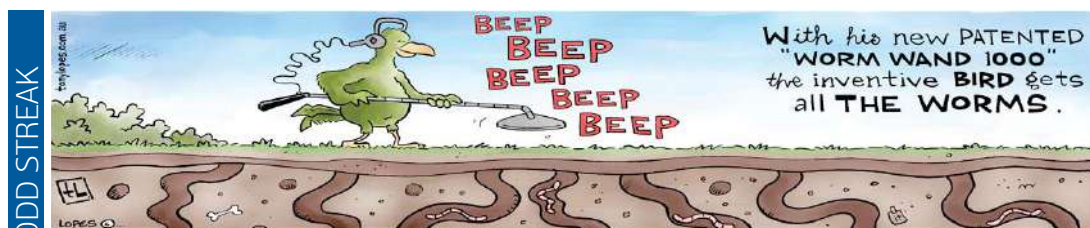
EACH number in the grid represents a letter. Today, 24 is N, so fill in N every time 24 appears. Two letters are given in the control grid to start you off. Enter them in the correct squares in the main grid, then use your knowledge of words to work out which letters should go in the missing squares. **SOLUTION ON MONDAY**

WIN £750



Yesterday's solution:

1	U	2	N	3	B	4	C	5	K	6	L	7	E	8	F	9	J	10	A	11	I	12	Z	13	R
14	T	15	S	16	D	17	W	18	M	19	Q	20	X	21	Y	22	O	23	P	24	G	25	V	26	H



Odd Streak 'Striving For Quantity' ebook, available for £3.99. Email info@stoneystoons.com to purchase.



To order the Fred Basset Yearbook 2022 for £8.36, go to mailshop.co.uk/books or call 020 3308 9193. Free p&p on orders over £20.

THE DAILY MAIL offers the opportunity to re-establish contact with long-lost relatives and friends. Each week, MONICA PORTER features the story of someone trying to find

a missing loved one and a tale of people reunited. Produced in conjunction with the voluntary tracing service Searching For A Memory, run by Gill Whitley.

MISSING...

THE search is on for former neighbours in West London. Ellen Digby, 66, now based in Surrey, is looking for a couple with whom she was very friendly when they all lived in the Bayswater area in the late 1970s and early 1980s. 'I was quite inexperienced, in rented accommodation, away from home for the first time and feeling rather homesick. 'The Morettis were older and very kind; they lived in the flat below mine and often gave me good advice as well as hot meals. I think they regarded me a bit like a daughter. 'Sandra was, I believe, a medical secretary; her Italian

husband Riccardo had settled here years earlier to work in a relative's clothing or textile business. They'd give drinks parties to which I was invited, really cosmopolitan events where I'd meet people from all over the world. 'They moved to a house on the outskirts of London in about 1983. We lost touch after that. I've never married or had a family, and now that I'm retired from a career in retail management, I have plenty of time to reminisce about people who were once close to me. It would be wonderful to see the Morettis again. I do hope they're still with us.'



Christmas cheer: Sandra Moretti with a furry friend at one of the drinks parties she and her husband hosted

IN JUNE, we heard from Bruce Gates, 82, of Bristol. He wrote: 'I've tried without success to trace my football team-mates from RAF Butterworth in Penang, Malaya, in the 1960s. I was posted there in 1963, working with the Royal Australian Air Force as a paint finisher, sewing machinist and safety survival kit packer. 'In Singapore in 1965, our team won the Far East Air Force Football Championship — it was the first time Singapore's RAF stations had been beaten for the Cup. 'My team included my best friends Alan Peacock, Bill Penman, John Leather, Tom Mitchell and Vic Probert.'

...AND FOUND



Victory: Bruce Gates (circled) and the rest of the RAF Butterworth team are celebrating success in Singapore in 1965

A delighted Alan Peacock has emailed, asking us to put him in touch with his old friend, while John Leather writes:

'I was speechless when I saw the photo and message from Bruce Gates. I would love to make contact with him.'

■ IF THERE is someone you'd like to trace, write to Gill Whitley, 1 Newbrook House, New Hall Lane, Preston, PR1 5PE, enclosing an SAE, or send an email to monica.porter@dailymail.co.uk,

including a phone number. All communications answered as soon as possible. A small donation is requested for employing Gill Whitley's services. This column is researched with the aid of 192.com.

COMPLETE Codeword to reveal the word in the shaded boxes. HOW TO ENTER: Call 0901 293 6232 and leave your answer and your details. Or TEXT 65700 with the word CODE, your answer and then your name. Texts and calls cost £1 plus

your standard network charges. One weekly winner chosen from all correct entries received between 00.01 Monday and 23.59 Saturday. Answers change daily at 00.01. UK residents aged 18+, excl NI. Full terms apply, see Page 52.*

NEED A CLUE? Text the word CODEWORD to 65700 to receive four clues or call 0901 293 6200. Texts and calls cost £1 plus your standard network charges. Today's clues available between 00.01 today and 23.30 only.